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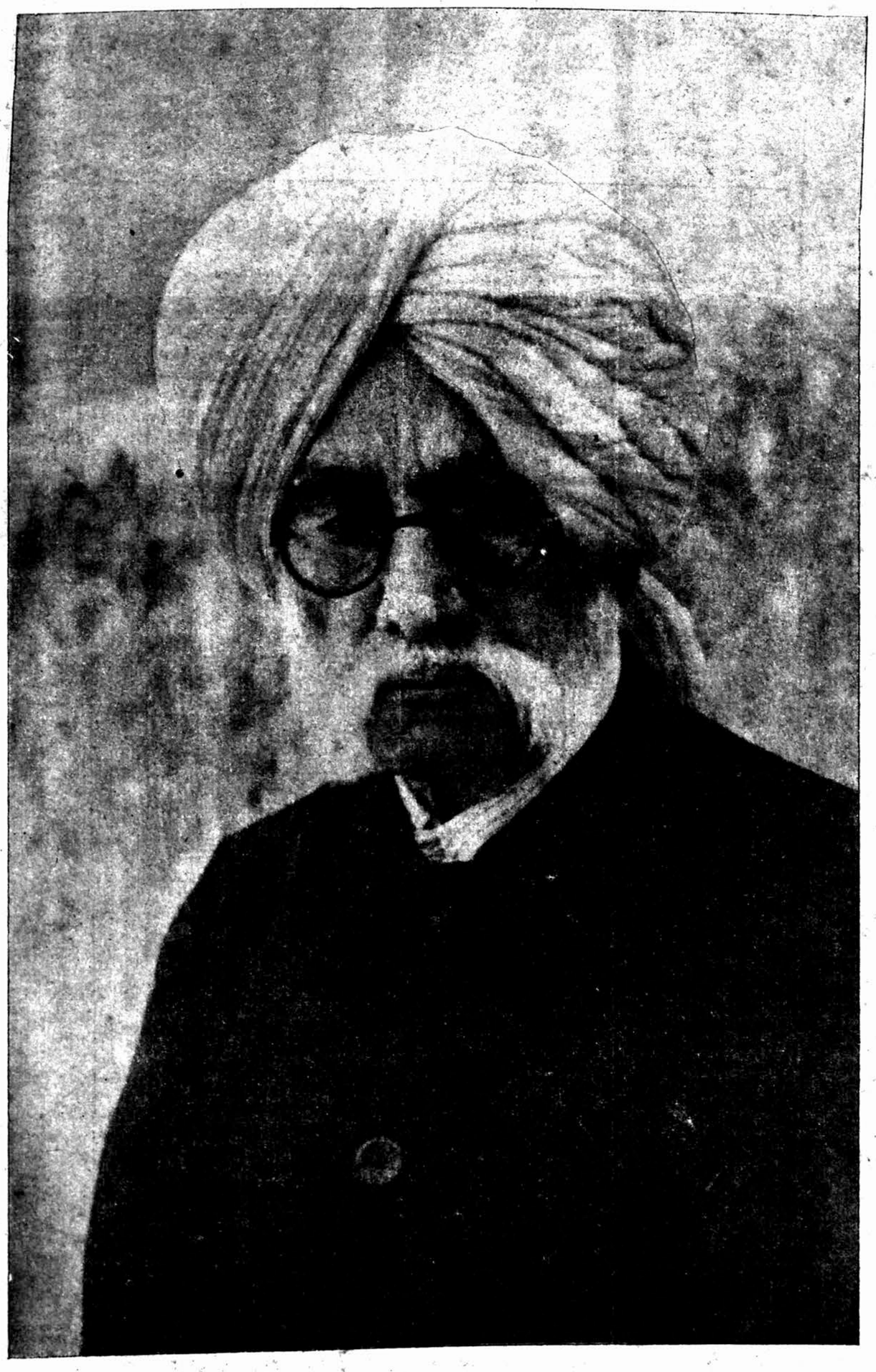
GAYAN SAMRAT



Khan Sahib Alladiya Khan

Photo: D. G. TENDULKAR

New Delhi Propaganda

—See Page 2.

The Boomerang Of New Delhi Propaganda

By "SCRUTATOR"

The "Chronicler", in your Sunday edition of February 20th, has done a distinct service to our country by exposing the insidious propaganda contained in the series of advertisements about Japanese barbarism put out by the Indian Information and Broadcasting Department from New Delhi. The theme may look innocent to the undiscerning, but not to those who follow current political events with a critical eye.

One has only to read books such as 'Lest We Forget" by Douglas Reed and "Democracy's Last Fight" by Francis Williams, two informed critics, to realise that there are in existence powerful and influential oligarchies in both Great Britain and America who will do everything they can to protect Germany from the consequences of total defeat. The reason for this is they have much in common racially, politically and economically. These reactionaries think that such a defeat would interfere with their own retention of class privileges, political power, and wealth which have always enabled them to exploit not only their own working classes but also weaker countries under their domination.

False Portrait

In view of this serious danger to the future of democracy, it is a pity that the Indian press and public do not expose to public gaze the reactionary tendencies of such propaganda, which emanate from the Delhi bureaucracy, and which is paid for by our money without our consent.

In analysing the object of the recent propaganda, it must be borne in mind that whether one is red, green, brown, yellow or black, we are all lumped together as either "Orientals" or "Asiatics". There is no distinction, and if Indians are fools enough to be deluded into thinking they are "Aryans", then they deserve to remain helots. Just as, in India, to us every "white" man is a European, so in Europe everyone there looks upon us as an "Oriental" or 'Asiatic";—to the average European these two words have a common meaning.

The "white" races through a process of conquest and exploitation, and imbued with a desire to maintain their rule over the "coloured races", have deliberately coined the epithets "Orientals" and "Asiatics" in order to impress on the European mind that we are of an inferior pedigree and as such can never become a pukka "white" man (or Sahib). In other words, we are treacherous, cruel, liars, cowards, incompetents, uncivilized, and what not.

This lying portrait is to be found painted in many books written by authors, of repute and irrepute, belonging to the so-called Nordic (or Anglo-Saxon, race which includes the Britishers and their American cousins. Even on the screen, in British and American produced films, you can see scenes frequently repeating this calumny on Asiatic races who are unable to retaliate. I am amazed at our tolerance in not destroying the books and films which insult our national feelings. These things can happen with impunity in India but not in Turkey, Russia, or Japan, or in any independent country.

Nazi Barbarities

I must say, in fairness, that French literature (in fact Continental thinking generally) is free from the snobbish, racial bias of the type described. And this is due to the fact to the French race, particularly, democracy is not a theory, or even a principle, but a living stream in the body politic, and no military reverses or political and social corruptions can dam that life stream for any long time.

There is irrefutable evidence to-day that the Germans have committed the most "barbaric" atrocities on Russian subjugated soil, on a scale and manner which the Japanese can never hope to emulate on account of their limited scope for such sadistic outbursts. I don't want to speak of what the Germans have done to the Poles, Czechs—or to those Nordic peoples (of their own racial strains) whose countries they have overrun!

If the Indian Member, under whose enlightened direction the propaganda series have no doubt been drawn up, will read (and pass on to his literary Scribes for perusal) the book "Mother Russia" by Maurice Hindus, the noted war correspondent of the "New York Herald Tribune" and an eye-witness, he will be convinced that the horrors committed by the Germans in occupied Russian territory have no parallel in history. The German craving for brutality and bestiality was practised to the fullest extent on hundreds of thousands of women, children, and tillers of the soil at Rostov and Kharkov, particularly during their retreat. We have read of the cruelties of ancient races and warriors but for civilised and intelligent 20th century barbarity the hero's laurel wreath must be bestowed on the Germans—one of the superior "Nordic" races. Is it any surprise that Stalin should repeat every time "Death to the invaders" after having seen the murderous blood-trials left behind by the fleeing German armies?

Why Solicitude For Germans?

The German superior race-complex which looks upon the lives of "inferior races" as something of no consequence to this world, is shown by the treatment meted out to the Russian people. There is still more authoritative evidence against the Germans in articles which have appeared in the "Saturday Evening Post"—the foremost weekly magazine of America with 3 to 4 million circulation. This magazine is a conservative in politics and is not likely to "cook up" fairy tales, as it has a great reputation for accuracy and its war correspondents are trained observers. The Delhi propagandists could get a great deal of genuine material for their next series from the back copies of this famous American weekly if they want to know the real Germans and their gentle ways with Russian prisoners.

In view of this, I ask myself: "Why all this extreme solicitude for the Germans?" Especially as we all know that the Britishers themselves contemptuously dubbed the German race as "Huns" during the last war and do so even to-day. This change of thinking calls for an answer, and I predict that with further Russian successes this question of white-washing the "Nordic" race (blond or blue) will give rise to serious controversies.

The Great Betrayal

As "Chronicler" has pointed out, the Indian people were the first to condemn the Japanese wanton attack on China. They persisted in this criticism in the case of Italian aggression against Abyssinia, and also condemned the "appeasement" policy of Great Britain and France during the months preceding this war. Naturally Indians could give vent only to their feelings and left the question of action to their rulers, who possessed all the physical and money resources to help China and other threatened countries. All the world knows that Indians have been in the past and are to-day anti-fascists and anti-imperialists, and will always oppose any system which seeks to impose its will on any country or people with a view to domination and exploitation. Can the same be said of Great Britain and America, which nations traded with Japan, Italy and Germany during the critical years preceding the war. They sold materials to the Fascists with which they built armaments to blast the peace-loving countries.

We all know how Russian offer of help was scorned and belittled before the shameful Munich Pact by both the Premiers of Great Britain and France. And what is worse, cowardly Italy was represented at Munich—and not Russia who had military pacts with France and Czechoslovakia. Such being the facts, I think Indians should be proud that they did not sell the "Pass" to any of the Fascist countries—the democracies did it, of course.

So, there cannot be any doubt as to the Indians' attitude to Fascism or Imperialism. They know Fascist philosophy wants to see the weaker races remain stagnant, unprogressive and dependant for their existence on the crumbs from the masters' table. Japan is a fascist nation and Indians through their leaders have condemned her without equivocation. But having said this, we are not prepared to subscribe to the dictum that the whole Japanese nation are barbarians—an evil people without any graces, as the Delhi propaganda machine wants us to believe.

Prisons Of Empire Are Full!

There are other nations who are not entirely free from the evils of cruelty and power-lust. This is what the author of "Democracy's last Battle" has to say of Great Britain's role in the Colonies she owns:

"The fact remains that in the last three or four years there has, because of intolerable conditions, been rioting, disturbance, and blood-shed in most of Britain's colonial territories; in Jamaica, Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Tanganyika and Trinidad, Mauritius and Barbados, to mention only half a dozen. A series of commissions of inquiry into conditions in these territories has discovered shocking facts of under-nourishment, disease, economic distress, and the suppression of liberties of those among the native populations who had had the courage to protest. The prisons of the colonials possessions of democratic Britain house working-class leaders serving long sentences on charges of sedition for the crime of endeavouring to organize trade union resistance to shameful exploitation. Men by the hundreds are flogged and sometimes die of the flogging, for the crime of not paying poll taxes."

The author says that when the native workers, working in the valuable copper mines in Northern Rhodesia, struck work for higher wages than they were getting in 1930, namely, from 9 pence to 1 sh. 2 pence a day, their demand resulted in 17 of them being killed and 70 wounded in the disturbances that followed. It should be mentioned that the British mine-owners were making £6,000,000 in profits a year. The comment of the author on this incident is: "That is colonial democracy in Northern Rhodesia."

To come back to the "superior race" philosophy preached and practised by the white nations 'vis-a-vis' Oriental and Asiatic races.

"It is a philosophy (says the author of 'Democracy's Last Battle') more corrupting of decency and reason than any other. It depends, in fact, on the assumption that they are not human in the full sense that members of the superior race are. It is not a new assumption in the world. It is that same assumption of racial superiority that has made it possible for Americans of the Southern States who would regard the murder of a fellow-white as a crime of the first degree, to consider the lynching of a Negro as perfectly proper."

Further on, he says:

"It is that same assumption that has sometimes enabled the British in India to treat the native population as not so much of a lower class as on a quite different plane of life. It is that same assumption which all over the world has enabled the white races to regard the coloured not merely as subjects for exploitation . . . . . but as sub-humans who could be kicked or beaten or pushed off the pavement if they did not do as they were told or if they got in the way."

One could go on illustrating and commenting endlesly on the virtues of the "White Man's Burden". But the coloured races now know them for what they are really worth and are no more afraid of the future. The time has long gone past for believing in cant phrases which carry on honest purpose or meaning for peoples who want to build and live their own lives in their own way.

One thing is certain. If British Imperialism survives in its present form with its ruling caste drawn from a privileged class possessed of obsolete ideas and prejudices, the world will never be made "safe for democracy"—not for a long time to come. The utterances of British leaders on the Indian deadlock offer no hope for Indians, or to mankind for that matter. It must be remembered we are 400 million people and to deprive us of political rights is not going to make for the peace and happiness of other nations.

So, Britishers should not feel hurt or surprised if some of their higher moral flights of oratory are received with mockery in India.

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THE WOMEN OF CHINA

By MADAME KUO LOO-TUH

The position of women in China, like that of women in other countries, has undergone many changes.

In ancient China, the activities of her women were more or less confined to the home. Thus women were not admitted to the literary examination system which led men to public and official life. Some idea of their position and duties may be gleaned from the following reference in a Chinese classic: "At home, a woman is expected to obey her father. After marriage, she should obey her husband, and upon his death, her son." The virtues of women to be encouraged were four in number, viz., their moral character, their conversation, their appearance and their handicraft. It was the belief of our great philosopher Confucius that there should be a division of labour between man's duties outside the home and woman's duties inside the home. The ideal of womanhood was to be a "helpful wife and wise mother." In the educated families, daughters were also taught such studies as literature, poetry and painting.

However, Chinese history contains many examples of women of great wisdom and influence. It is recorded that the mother of Mencius, China's great sage, realising the importance of environment in the upbringing of children, moved her home three times in order to procure for her son a desirable neighbour. The story of Joan of Arc finds its counterpart in the story of Mu Lan, who as a young girl inspired and led a successful army against China's foreign invaders. There was the woman writer Pan Chao of the Han Dynasty, who laid down the pattern for women's education in the famous three obediences and four virtues referred to above. Some others have dedicated their brains and energies toward the improvement of the nation.

Equal Status

With the dawn of the modern era and the introduction of western education in China, the sphere of Chinese women has been greatly enlarged. In 1927 the National Government recognised the equal status of women with men, legally, socially, economically and educationally. Women now enjoy equal opportunities in education and in work. Schools and colleges for women have been established and co-education has been widely adopted. About forty years ago very few professions were open to women, but now none is closed to them. They have found their way into government service, into business, law, medicine, and education. They act as administrators for districts and on the People's Political Council there are fifteen women representatives. A signal honour was paid to the women members when Dr. Wu Yi-fang, President of the Ginling College for Women, was elected to the presidium of five. Since "More is expected from those who receive most"(Chinese women are now expected to shoulder greater responsibilities in our social and national life. That they have lived up to what is expected of them is shown by what they have done, not only in time of peace but also in time of crisis.

Women In War

In the course of a radio broadcast from Chungking on April 19th, 1940, Madam H. H. Kung, wife of the Vice-President of the Executive Yuan and Minister of Finance, said, among other things, that "the most revealing and impressive manifestation of our inherent power and will to win victory is embodied in the women. We have never seen anything like it in our country before. Women have escaped from their cloistered lives and are working everywhere; at the front with the fighting men and the wounded; behind the lines with the war-shocked country people; far in the rear, in rural works, in hospitals, in war orphanages, in industrial and community services."

Almost immediately following the outbreak of hostilities with Japan in July, 1937, Madame Chiang Kai-shek, who in many ways has shown herself to be China's First Lady in peace, in war, and in the hearts of women compatriots, made a fervent appeal to the women leaders in Nanking, then the country's capital, to organise themselves for effective war relief service. Her appeal met with an enthusiastic response and, as a result, the National Women's Association for War Relief came into existence.

MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK
She symbolizes the new womanhood of China.

Faced Danger And Death

Madame Chiang's clarion call sounded and resounded throughout the country and across the Seven Seas to wherever Chinese emigrants lived. One after another, women's organisations in Shanghai and other leading cities telegraphed their hearty response to her appeal and their unqualified support for the National Association. Soon contributions came pouring in, either in cash, or in valuables, such as jewels, wedding and engagement rings, etc. The financial drive netted several million dollars and more in valuables and materials, while subscriptions to the Liberty Bonds raised by the various women's associations came to even larger figures. Teachers, housemaids, factory workers, shop girls, country women and others all joined in the nation-wide campaign, some of them giving their "widow's mite" or life savings for the cause of the country.

As sponsor and head of the Women's Association for War Relief, Madame Chiang has on many occasions braved danger and death by visiting the frontline troops, comforting them, cheering them and bringing them sundry presents. Her noble example was immediately followed by other members of the national and branch associations. Representing these associations are an endless stream of delegates who bring with them to the soldiers at the front all sorts of gifts such as books, magazines, newspapers, food, soap, towels, cigarettes etc.

The Association also responded to the need for establishing emergency hospitals and refugee camps to take care of the large number of wounded soldiers and refugees behind the firing lines; in a number of large cities, women either individually or collectively, vied with each other in organising and running such hospitals and refugee camps.

The Association for the Relief of Refugee Children was also organised to rescue and remove boys and girls from war areas to regions of safety. The children are being taken care of and are being trained to become healthy, intelligent and independent citizens of new China.

Women's Conference

The conference of women leaders held in Kuling marked an important stage in the women's wartime activities. The conference was attended by women leaders who were invited regardless of party connection or religious faith Madame Chiang as chairman appealed to the delegates to redouble their efforts and to co-ordinate their activities on more efficient lines. In her opening address she urged that they must not merely talk but work; that the women-power of the entire nation must be mobilised; that their various activities must be correlated so as to avoid duplication of effort, and that their work must have a definite purpose, must be of a permanent and not transient nature, and must be adaptable to the time of peace as well as of war. In other words, their activities must coincide with the idea embodied in the dual programme. "Resistance hand-in-hand with Reconstruction", which is the guiding principle of China's policy in the present national crises. Emphasis is laid upon the necessity of energetic effort to increase production as the greatest economic need both during the war and the period of reconstruction which must follow.

Women are taking an active part in the New Life Movement, the Mass Education Movement and the Industrial co-operatives. They devote themselves to the training of staff workers, to improving the livelihood of women, to inaugurating war work, to organising village industries, to increasing production, to stimulating wartime education for women, and to conducting relief of all kinds. Thousands of college women have been trained in the improvement of silkworm breeding, spinning, weaving, hand embroidery, and other rural industries. They are being sent to various districts to teach the local women new methods which will increase output ten times. They also organise one of the unique co-operatives in the world known as the "Grandmothers' Co-ops."

The activities of women are by no means confined to the work outlined above. It covers a wide range of endeavours. Many students have joined the women's service corps while others have gone as liaison workers between the troops and the people, as nurses, cooks and guides, as musical and dramatic entertainers; as readers, story-tellers and lecturers: as publicity workers and organisers of the stricken people, helpers of the fleeing refugees, and always as inspiring dispensers of help, cheerfulness and encouragement to the fighting men.

Women Guerillas

Taking a more adventurous part are the women guerillas. Twenty thousand of them are doing patrol and rescue work. One of the leaders was a farmer's wife, known as Mother Chao, an old lady of over seventy. She roused the country folks to resist the Japanese soldiers. She organised and led an army of 30,000 volunteers and guerillas. Twice she was captured by the Japanese and twice she escaped. In one province women had to shoulder rifles to guard a long stretch of vital supply line, and in another province a women's battalion was formed. The first Chinese women's auxiliary unit to be sent abroad went to Burma. There are the Amazons who join men in the mountain fastnesses or behind the enemy's lines, and courageously endure extreme hardships in waging guerilla warfare on the enemy. There are the Girls' New Life Teams which, trained in the principles of the New Life Movement and the mobilisation of women for wartime duties, go into the villages and, through the example of their own life and work, teach the people the meaning and spirit of service and train them for giving first aid and care to the soldiers. Many go right up to the fighting lines, and share the dangers of injury and death with the men of the army.

The peasant women of China are making a notable contribution to the country's war effort. China has always been an agricultural country, and for centuries the peasant women have worked side by side with their farmer husbands. They are thrifty, patient, hardworking and scarcely spend anything on themselves. Since the war more women have taken up work in the fields, working hitherto uncultivated land in order to increase production. Many women have undertaken men's work on the construction and maintenance of China's modern highways. They helped to build the Szechuen Highway and the famous Burma Road. Of the half-a-million workers on the Yunnan-Burma Railway, 300,000 were women The 240-mile Kansu Szechuen highway will stand as an immortal monument to the women of Kansu, thousands of whom have worked on it.

Working in the field of medicine for the nation's cause are the women doctors, nurses and pharmacists. They are at base hospitals maintained by the Army Medical Service while others serve with the Red Cross mobile units at the front and in the anti-epidemic corps which tour the war zones.

Recently, under the provisions of the conscription law, Chinese women between the ages of 18 and 45 are to be called upon to perform auxiliary services in wartime. The new regulation is designed more to systematise the many offers of service rather than to increase the number serving.

The crisis facing China is of a seriousness and magnitude unprecedented in her history, and her women have thrown in their lot with the men in the crusade to deliver their country from external aggression and tyranny. What they have done and are doing justifies the belief that they will shoulder their share of responsibility not only in winning the war for Democracy and Freedom, but also in the creation of a better and saner world for ourselves and our posterity.

MORE ABOUT THAT AJANTA CONTROVERSY!

By S. R. GUPTA

I am writing this neither to heap opprobrium on Mr. Nichols, nor to eulogise Mr. Krishnachandar's feverishly hasty rejoinder I followed with close interest and serious attention the little storm Mr. Nichols speech has brewed in the Chronicle tea-pot, and having calmly deliberated the points put forward on both sides I feel an imperative necessity to place a candid, frank and balanced view before readers to judge. Even though the letter, which sees the light of print by the courtesy of the "Chronicle" Weekly, is slightly be-lated, I hope the readers will agree with me that truth and reality can be reached only after mature thought—it is not the question of striking the iron when it is hot, as Mr. Krishan Chandar probably imagined.

ART AND LIFE

Ajanta art is indeed a rich heritage for any nation to cherish, perhaps more precious and artistic by its rarity and if measured by the rod of aestheticisms than the Roman statutes and Raphael paintings to the West; but one has to admit that art is 'not all life'; Shakespeare 'is' the whole life, !in all its many aspects, aesthetic or in artistic, in its ugliness and beauty, in its obscenity and pettiness. Nobody can dispute Shakespeare's versatility as none can disagree with Kalidasa's complete mastery on love-theme or Tulsi's subtle sublime-hero-worship. But to remark that to disown Ajanta is to disown Shakespeare is utterly wrong, because an Ajanta cannot inspite, enlighten and educate us in lessons of life as a Shakespeare. It is like saying that Confucious and the onion-eating-builders of the Pyramids are equal in artistic abilities; and their handicrafts hold parallel value to the nations to which they belong. Logic and deductions of reasoning are surely absent in the heat of the moment.

My object here is not to discuss the relative merits and demirits of western and eastern art—the curvatures and impressionism of the west are as confusing to the layman as the symbolism and intuitive merging of eastern art with the cosmos. I am here only pointing out the grain of truth in Mr. Nichols' speech. The place where Mr. Nichols wrongs us is when he belittles the artistic merits of Ajanta, but he is right in expressing sorrow on the "going back" to Ajanta forms and standards.

"WE LIVE IN THE PAST"

"Nobody knows the tragedy that is India, the gloom that is India, the despair that is India',—but have the progressive forces in the country realised the bitter truth of these words? Escapist tendencies of various types are manifest in the country—Escapism into sex, religion or Krishanchandar's blinding helpless fury. A vast section of Indian populace, the future citizens of India,—students in the colleges and universities, are deeply obsessed by the starkness of Freudian theories. They have been swept off their feet by the impelling impact of the importance and omnipresence of sex instincts. The middle-aged and the grey-heads are piteously hovering in a world where stilted ideas and absured theories which have ceased to be useful or right long ago still hold ground; they tenaciously stick to a set of obsolete ideas codified at a time when the Universe was in its infancy. The worst case however is that of the sceptics and pseudo-intellectuals who lash themselves into futile indignation whenever a foreigner-very often an Englishman, points at the canker that is eating the heart of India. Such so called progressives with singular theories of the charm of indolence, delude themselves and the humanity at large by shedding crocodile tears over our present condition, burying their heads like ostrich in the sands of time, and hotly denying the unpleasant truths.

What have we done or shown to deserve liberty and a niche in the International Palace? One bird or two birds cannot make spring. Our leaders are behind the prison bars because we still believe that yagnas at Delhi and Allahabad will propitiate the Gods that are against us or will bring peace and bliss on the war weary world. We still believe that India can exist and thrive on its past achievements. We still believe that Indians can live without food, without air in Samadhi, balanced in the mid-air. We still believe that there is a life beyond death where Indians will be welcomed by Indra and the gates of Swarga will be thrown open for our admittance. We still believe that art will give us the Buddha's Nirvan. We still think that as we had Ram, the mythical warrior hero, Krishna the wily politician, and Manu the idealistic law giver, we will be seccessful in brow-beating and conquering the world. Belief in the past may add confidence but it is not 'action.' Action and plan are needed to tobruk our enemies; not dreams and visions about creating another Ajanta in the shadowy-mountain-caves. Freedom in fancy will not lead to the removal of menacles. Idealism is one thing, life another. Life to be well-lived needs shrewdness and deceits. To be successful in practice we must make Machiavelli our days' and nights' constant study.

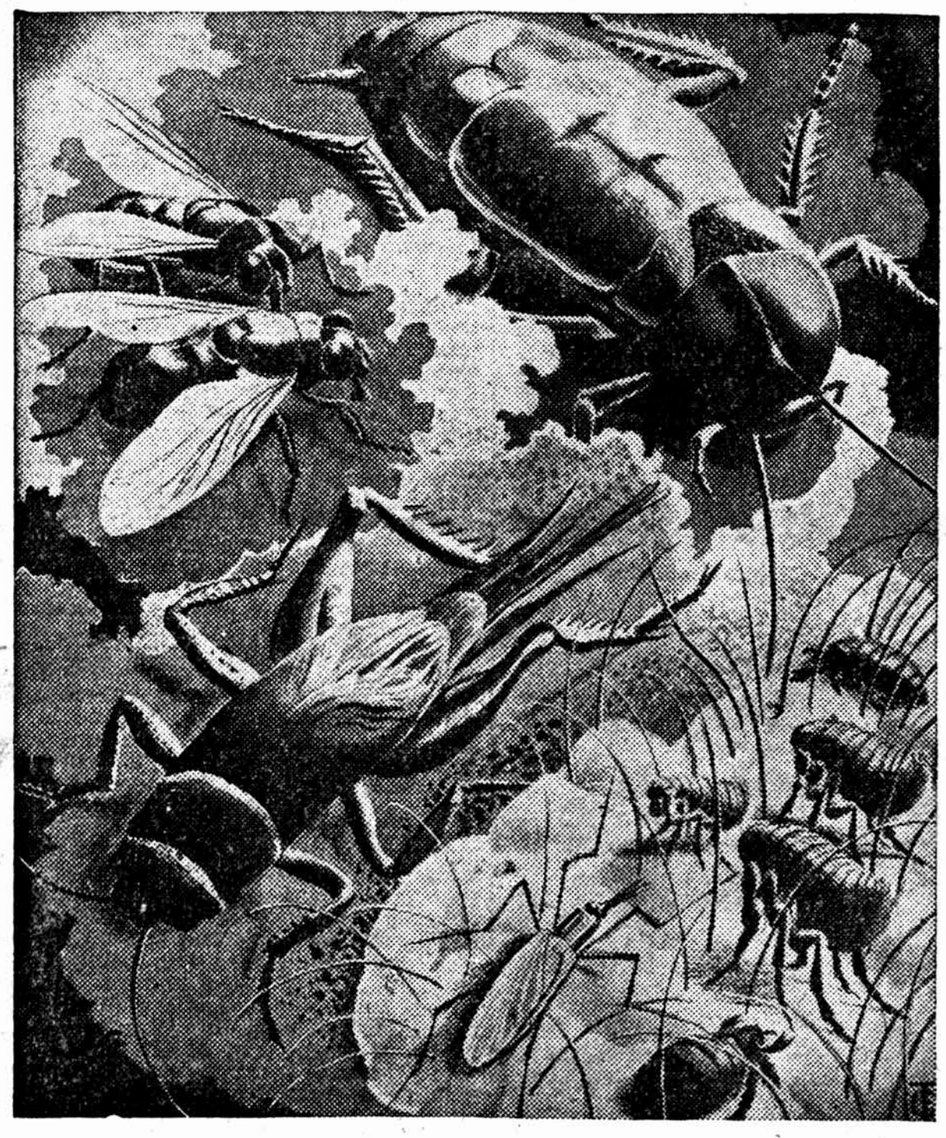
In a golden period of history when food and amenities of life were in plenty the artist could lean back in repose and weave drams of an ideal body in shape and form, the artist may love art for art's sake, but now art must be inter-linked with life. Otherwise we are bound to go deeper into the abyss of degradation. It was a timely warning by Mr. Nichols to ask Indians, the young, the old and writers to turn our back against the "gigantic lamp" of an Ajanta or Tajmahal, if we do not want to invite extinction. The progressive writers should know that there is no prettiness in a round elevation of busts enveloped by tattered kurtas of village girls; there is no beauty in the drop of sweat running down the chin of a farmer, there is no grandness in this ruins of palaces and mosoleums; there is no sublimity in past. Come to this world, this India, the India of today, with its weeping widows and starving millions, and give them food to eat, clothes to cover their naked bodies. To preach homily and burn incese of homage at the Ajanta frescoes and statues in certainly like fluttering as a set of moths round the glow of past.

LOTUS-EATERS NOT WANTED

Progressivism does not lie in the direction of repudiating the unpleasant truths. "Indian art" say the aesthetes, "is symbolic, religious, idealistic"—idealistic and unreal, helping us to escape from sordid realities. Art has been a fever with us, chloroforming us gently, stilling our anguish and pangs. "Indian artists deliberately turned their back on life" says Mr. Nichols and innumerable examples can be cited in the support. "The queer mannerisms depicted in Ajanta the slender waist, the heavy busts, the rounded hips, the elongated eyes and tapering fingers" have not and will not help us in our battle for freedom; to win the race of life there must be brawny limbs and stout bones.

The glory that was India's is dead and gone and to resuscitate it, is a heinous crime, because it may reduce us to Tennyson's "Lotus eaters" stupor. Forget the "other world" the world of sex, the world of art, the world of past, the world of kirtans and havans; see with open eyes the poverty and pestilence, suffering and sorrow, famine and fetters, death and decay. Mould art to serve life, not life to serve art. There is no harm in accepting with gratitude the gospel of truth at the hands of White Devil. Let us turn our back for the present on visionary beauties of body and form, let us remember the fates of brave soldiers at Kharkov, let us sacrifice our art, our body, our life on the altar of freedom and liberty. It is Mr. Krishanchandra and other of his clan who are refusing to see the blood smears on the walls of time—Sanguinary prophecies for an India on the edge of a stupendous precipice.

"BIG FLEAS HAVE LITTLE FLEAS....



.... upon their backs to bite 'em, and little fleas have lesser fleas, and so *ad infinitum*." The significance of this jingle should need no emphasis in war-time. Man is the recognised meat of blood-suckers like fleas, bugs, lice and mosquitoes, and his property and the crumbs that fall from his table feed an army of insect pests like houseflies, crickets, cockroaches and clothes moths. We are prone to dismiss them too lightly, especially at present. History shows plainly how parasitic insects have, for example, by spreading typhus and plague from rat to human being, caused death-rolls higher than the deadliest weapon of man's devising. We owe an immunity from such insect-borne diseases to cleanly habits, and the unremitting vigilance of health authorities, backed by the research of scientists and the products of chemical industry. Research has unravelled the mysteries of infection and the complex life histories of pests and parasites; the chemist has provided an extensive armoury of dusts, sprays, fumigants and disinfectants with which to attack them, either directly or by assisting man to keep his house, clothes and person clean and wholesome. War has intensified old problems and created new ones. Evacuation, congested camps, the dispersal of foodstuffs in store and warehouse, have all given pests better opportunities of contact and scattered them over wide areas. Air traffic has increased the danger of new pests and diseases. The health services are on their toes to protect the community. At their back the chemical industry is constantly at work to maintain the output of essential insecticides and to discover new ones in order to uphold the nation's immunity from insect-borne disease.

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JAPS BOMBARD ALLIED POSITIONS

A Few Enemy Still Holding Hill Feature East Of Ngakyedank Pass

NEW DELHI, March 4.

On the west of the Mayu Range there was some bombardment of our forward positions on March 2, says an Allied war 'communique' issued to-day.

Until the night of March 2|3 a few enemy were still holding out on a hill feature east of the Ngakyedank Pass.

On March 3 two parties of Japanese attempted to break out of this area and to withdraw southwards. Whilst one of these parties made some progress and is being followed up and harassed, the other was soon engaged and after sharp fighting, it was driven back on to the hill feature leaving half its original number dead on the battlefield.

On the main front east of the Mayu range our patrols have been active and in one sector our artillery engaged enemy troops movements successfully.

To the east of the Kalapanzin our troops attacked and captured some enemy positions north-north-east of Buthidaung and in spite of three determined counter attacks by the Japanese consolidation was well in hand by the evening of March 3.

Early on March 2 West African troops attached Apaukwa South of Kyauktaw in the Kaladan Valley, and by the evening had captured the majority of the enemy positions.

The strategic and tactical air forces of eastern air command combined in an attack on Fort White on March 3. Fighters and diver-bombers attacked objective in the Kaladan, Arakan and Mayu areas on March 3. Two bridges near Pinlebu were damaged.

On March 2, Fighter bombers, destroyed gun positions in the Shingban area. Other formations started fires in a petrol dump at Myitkyina and heavily damaged a large Japanese camp near Mogaung.

A very large formation of U S Fighter-bombers attacked an extensive stores and personnel concentration in the Swanghka area on March 1. The same day U S Medium and fighter-bombers made two attacks on the railroad from Kanbalu to Pyintha. The Namkwin road bridge was destroyed.

WEST AFRICANS DO IT BY HUNTING HORN

Final reports on the Arakan victory, which are now being sifted at SEAC headquarters, tell of a hunting horn charge by West African troops on a Jap position.

Men of the Sierra Leone regiment were making a night bayonet attack. The Jap abandoned arms and equipment and fled as the West Africans charged in, shouting and cheering and making ferocious but strangely melodious blasts on the hunting horn which one of them had made himself and had insisted on carrying into battle.

On the Maungdaw coast men of a West African reconnaissance regiment gave valuable support to the British and Indian troops operating to the west of the Mayu range.

The men of this regiment come from the colonies of Sierra Leone, Gold Coast and Nigeria.

Hundreds of African drivers are daily making the trip back and forth along the road to Arakan.

The new Burma Border Forces' programme, primarily intended for British and American servicemen on the Eastern Front is radiated on 41.15 metres from 1830 to 1930 hours daily. On Thursday, March 16 it will switch over to a summer frequency of 25.27 metres 11.870 megacycles).

Reds Hammering At Key Towns Of Narva, Pskov & Ostrov

NAZIS IN NARVA FACE ANNIHILATION, PRESSURE AGAINST VITEBSK INCREASES

MOSCOW, March 4.—Exceptionally stubborn battles are developing in three vital sertors of the northern front with Red Army forces hammering at key towns of Narva, Pskov and Ostrov, says Reuter's special correspondent.

Russian assault groups, while steadily reducing German strong points at Pskov, are pushing north-west to support an outflanking drive from the south, while the thrust towards Ostrov is proceeding vigorously.

Determined German efforts to break the Soviet grip on Narva defences have been unsuccessful, and the latest dispatch stated that Russian position here have been strengthened.

The Red army are fighting to throw a noose around Pskov. Stiff battles are going on. Soviet troops are pushing west of points 15 miles almost due south of the Baltic gateway and within three or four miles of the Pskov-Vilna line, the last southern rail link remaining to the Germans.

ENEMY POSITION AT PSKOV WORSENS

Earlier messages stated:

Soviet troops fighting their way across the last strip of German-held territory, have reached the Gulf of Finland west of Narva and cut off all retreat for the German garrison, says a special dispatch from Reuter's special correspondent in Moscow.

Simultaneously frontline dispatches report worsening of the German position at Pskov, the southern gateway to Estonia.

(From Reuter's Special Correspondent)

MOSCOW March 4: It is certain that the Soviet Government could not whittle down any of the peace conditions for Finland, and the general tenor of foreign comment published in the Soviet press today is that Finland would be making a mistake if she delayed, let alone refused, to accept the conditions.

SAPRU'S TALKS WITH LEADERS

NEW DELHI, March 4: An informal meeting was held today at which Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and some 15 members of the Central Legislature and others took part. It is likely that a joint statement will be issued as a result of the meeting.—A. P.

SIR G. S. BAJPAI ON INDIA'S EVOLUTION

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Indian Agent-General here, declared in a broadcast to-day that whatever League or Association for International Security the United States, Russia, China and the British Commonwealth may form, India will readily join on the basis of a status of complete and honourable equality.

Pointing out that India's political and economic evolution might have been different but for the advent of a Western nation, Sir Girija said: "The contact with Britain has created a new polity, a new economic order, a new sense of social values a new patriotism. Instead of the sway of benevolent personal rule, India seeks a Government based on representative institutions.

After recalling the exploits of the Indian troops in different theatres since the start of the war and the contribution made by India's industrial resources, Sir Girja concluded: "Those who seek to build a lasting security out of the victory of right over force will find India's co-operation of even greater value as she grows in freedom and strength and they will not seek that co-operation in vain" —Reuter.

MR. SHARMA JOINS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

KARACHI, March 4.

Mr M S M Sharma, Editor of the "Daily Gazette", has accepted the invitation of Sir Sultan Ahmed, Member for Information, Government of India, to join the Advisory Committee of the Central Information and Broadcasting Department.

Mr Sharma will be attending the meeting due to be held next week in New Delhi.—A P.

U. S. DELEGATION FOR LONDON

(From A Special Correspondent.)

LONDON, March 4.

An American diplomatic delegation will be shortly leaving for discussion in London subjects connected with European post-war settlement including those affecting Poland and Finland, the status of French National Committee, the Middle East, oil, aviation, Shipping and Lend-Lease bases, it is learnt from American sources.

The European Advisory Committee here has done quite useful work on problems, such as Armistice terms to be imposed on Germany. Slogans of unconditional surrender and terms of the Atlantic Charter have been seriously modified within recent weeks, and many members of the United Nations are strongly of the opinion that the German people should be told more precisely the conditions of peace.

U. S. Builds 350 Planes A Day

WASHINGTON, March 3

Aircraft production of the United States in February reached the new high level of 350 planes per day against the previous best of 339.

Making this announcement, the Chairman of the United States Aircraft Production Board, Mr. Charles E. Wilson, said that 8,760 aircraft were accepted from the manufacturers during the month, or about the same as in recent months. The weight of airframes produced increased by four per cent, compared to January. Bombers, fighters and cargo aircraft formed 84 per cent of the month's total.—Reuter.

FREE FRENCH TO HOW THIN

WASHINGTON, March 3

A substantial number of French merchantmen requisitioned by the United States and Britain after the fall of France will be turned over to the French Committee of National Liberation according to an announcement from the War Shipping Administration on Friday

B.E.S. SOCIAL: The social gathering of Borivli Education Society which was to be held on Sunday (5th inst.) is postponed due to the day being fixed as national mourning day in honour of Kasturba. It will be held on Friday (10th inst).

U. S. Forces Advance In Admiralty Islands

A 'communique' issued by the Allied Headquarters, South-West Pacific, states:—

North-Western Sector: Reconnaissance activity only.

North-Eastern Sector:—Admiralty Islands: In sharp ground fighting our troops after repulsing further enemy counter-attacks advanced their positions in all directions. Our medium bombers and attack planes in force bombed and strafed enemy-held territory in support of our ground troops. Our fighter cover effectively prevented enemy interception, shooting down eight with four probables. Lorengan was also heavily bombed.

New Ireland: Our Solomons air patrols attached enemy targets near Cape St. George and Namatanai.

New Britain: Adverse weather prevented air operations against Rabaul. Our fighters destroyed or damaged four barges in Cape Hoskins.

Gasmata: Our fighters bombed the aerodrome and strafed the jetty and supply dumps.

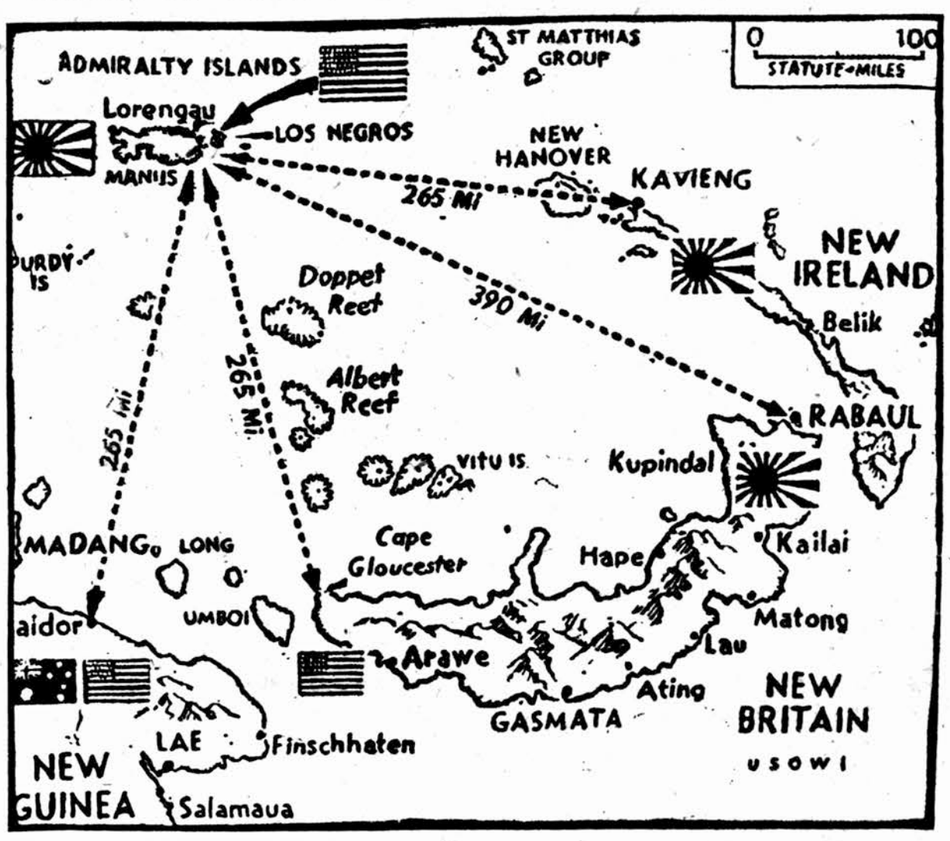
New Guinea—Madang Coast: Our air units bombed and strafed enemy positions at Alexisshafen and attacked coastal targets. The jetty and four barges were wrecked. One of our planes was shot down.

Mintjim Valley: Our fighters in support of ground forces dive-bombed and strafed enemy positions at Saipa.

Bougainville: Our heavy units struk Kahili at mid-day with 84 tons of bombs scoring hits on the runway and gun positions and starting large fires.

Empress Augusta Bay: Our torpedo and dive-bombers dropped 110 tons of bombs on enemy positions north-east of Torokina perimeter causing fires. Air patrols bombed targets on the south coast and at Ballale silencing gun positions and causing fires and explosions.

In the Buka area our fighter-bombers attacked the Buka aerodrome and Porton plantation.



On the last day of February, General MacArthur sent his landing troops ashore to seize Los Negros Island, a key position in the Admiralty Islands. This latest Allied surprise move tightens the sea blockade of all isolated Jap garrisons in the Bismarck Archipelago, and also gives the Allies another bomber base. Map shows location of Los Negros and the air distances to other important Allied and Jap positions in the area.

—USOWI RADIOPHOTO MAP.

HUGE CONFLAGRATION IN CITY

Godowns Of Timber And Chemicals Gutted

Heavy Explosions Heard Miles Around: Several Persons Injured: Damage Estimated At Lacs Of Rupees

Damage estimated at several lakhs of rupees was caused by a huge fire that broke out at Reay Road, Sewri, on Saturday night Six godowns stored with timber, sulpher and several other chemicals were completely gutted. The fire was preceded by some heavy explosions the report of which were heard for miles around. Some persons were injured and removed to the hospital as a result of the shocks sustained by the explosions.

The origin of the fire is not properly known But the moment the explosions occurred the fire quickly spread all round and its leaping flames could be seen lighting up the sky from a distance of several miles Within twenty minutes almost all the fire-engines of the City were seen battling against the soaring blaze which could not be brought under control till nearly 2 a.m The police also rendered active and valuable service by cordoning off the vast area, and thus keeping a huge inquisitive crowd away from the scene of fire.

The road was completely littered with hoses.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, the Municipal Commissioner Mr. M. D. Bhat and several other high police officers were present on the spot

The ownership of the godowns and the cause of the fire are not ascertained.

TRIAL OF M. PIERRE PUCHEU OPENS

Reuter's Special Correspondent Algiers March 4: The trial of M. Pierre Pucheu, former Vichy Minister of Interior opened here today in the same Court in which "the torture trial" ended yesterday Mr. Pucheu, who has already been sentenced to death by the Council of Resistance within France, on the charge of delivering French patriots into the hand of the Gestapo has been indicted on six counts.—Reuter.

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(TENDER No. 1|44-45)

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Mesua ferrea	Nahor, Nangal Suruli.
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T. M. DUMBLE,
Sleeper Control Officer,
Eastern Group.
B. N. Railway House, Kidderpore, Calcutta, 28-2-1944.

8027

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The Unrra And India

A BITING AMERICAN SATIRE

"Have you ever been to In-dya?" the British delegate asked with the air of a man who has scored a crushing point. I had to confess that I had never been to India. And I can't read a word of Sanskrit.

We managed to write of British heroism in 1940-41 without having been in London during the Blitz. Is starvation so esoteric that we cannot comment on the famine in Bengal without a Cook's tour of India?

India's position at the UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) conference here and UNRRA's position not in the agenda. (Pontius Pilate should have had an agenda)

While not as satisfying as a bowl of rice, it may be of some comfort to hungry Indians to know that they did not occasion the slightest breach of diplomatic decorum.

"Chin up, old fellow," one can hear a returned Indian delegate explain to an emaciated untouchable in the streets of Calcutta; "We saved the agenda."

The agenda and the realities are not in accord. Why do we feed the people of Southern Italy? Because that's the base from which our

Though recently certain arrangements have been made in America for sending relief supplies to India, this article by I. F. Stone in the magazine PM will be found of sufficient topical interest.

on India breed embarrassing questions. There are United Nations represented here and Associated Nations. France is an Associated Nation, its national committee being but imperfectly recognized. India has full status as a United Nation. And her delegation has agreed with the others on the principle that each shall contribute one per cent of her national income to feed the people of liberated areas.

This agreement is subject to approval by each nation in accordance with its constitutional processes", a phrase intended for dulcet effect on ears of our Congress. The Indian delegation is understandably, worried about the moment when, back home, some one says, "why didn't UNRRA do something about our own starving people? Why the one-way bargain?"

Suki-Yaki For Japs

I can imagine nothing more likely to infuriate Indian opinion than the request that India be asked to make a large contribution to relief for the hungry elsewhere while no attention is paid to her own. That should cartainly be suki-yaki for Japanese propaganda.

There are answers, of course, but they won't read well in Urdu or Hindustani. UNRRA was set up to feed the people in liberated areas—and India, as the preferred circumlocution goes, is not an area to be freed from Axis domination. It's outside the scope. It's Army is moving North and we can't have that base disorganized by starvation. Why should we feed the people of Bengal? Because that's one of the Anglo-American bases for the push into Burma.

Can't Eat Sterling!

India has plenty of money. Financially she has done well in the war. Her sterling balances are enormous. But you can't eat sterling.

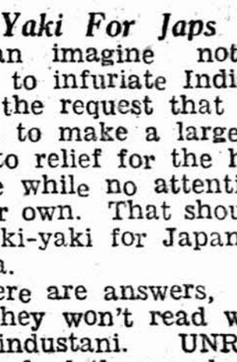
UNRRA, without stepping outside that sacred scope and sanctified agenda, could pass a resolution asking the Combined Shipping Board to make some extra tonnage available for foodstuffs to India.

"That", said the British delegate, "would only be a gesture." It needn't be. The American and British governments run the Combined Shipping Board, and if they want to send extra food to India they can—even though it mean that some of us get along without a third cup of coffee.

I am told that the Japanese have been dropping tiny packets of rice on Bengal. Of course, this is propaganda. But possibly better propaganda than posters on the Four Freedoms, including Freedom From Want. A few shiploads of food would be better than either, and I still hope UNRRA will take step to send them before it adjourns on Wednesday

2ND WEEK

NOORJEHAN
THE SINGING IDOL OF MILLIONS AT HER SWEETEST
in
NAVIN'S
GREAT SOCIAL



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Sir Muthia Chettiar Demands Jail Delivery

Indian Chambers' Federation Supports Fifteen-Year Plan Of Industrialists

NEW DELHI, March 4.

In his presidential address to the annual session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to-day, Kumararajah Sir Muthia Chettiar of Chettinad referred to the political situation in the country and said, "The Indian commercial community has always held the view that political advancement of the country has much to do with its economic prosperity.

Our commercial organisations, although they may eschew active politics cannot remain impervious to the march of events connected with the Indian freedom. We have, as patriotic Indians, to assist in all legitimate and constitutional efforts that aim at the political progress of the country."

The Kumararajah continued, "almost every political party and leader has demanded the release of political leaders who are now kept in detention. Whatever might have been the justification for detaining these leaders, I feel that the time has come for the Government to release them. They should not be kept in such detention for a moment longer than is necessary.

DISAPPOINTING SPEECH

Personally I think that their release will not embarrass war effort and I am afraid it must have come as a great disappointment to many in the country when Viscount Wavell declared in the assembly, Government's decision not to release the political leaders.

Every one hopes that with the release of political leaders it may be possible to form a more representative and national form of Government in India both at the centre and the provinces. When I say a representative and National Government, I mean a Government composed of representative leaders of all important and political groups and parties and not any one political party, however influential it may be for the time being."

The Kumararajah criticised the Government's policy of importing the wrong type of consumer goods, particularly luxury goods as an anti-inflationary measure. Citing instances to show that imported goods were preferred to indigenous production. The Kumararajah asked for a clear and un-ambiguous statement from the Government that the industries started virtually at the instance of the Government and kept going by Government patronage would be assured of continued protection during and after the war.

INDIAN BUSINESSMEN BEING SQUEEZED OUT

Referring to the export trade of India, the Kumararajah said that a virtual monopoly had been created for a few big importing and exporting houses mainly foreign, and that Indian businessmen were gradually being squeezed out altogether from India's foreign trade.

"It is time that this monopoly was broken and that a system of licensing introduced which will give a fair share of business to Indian commercial houses."

In this connection the Kumararajah touched upon the activities of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation and the peculiar privileges it enjoyed in this country.

There was a feeling of grave apprehension among commercial interests that the U.K.C.C. might prove to be another Avathar of the East India Company and corner all the external trade of this country. That was why the Federation asked the Government to give a guarantee that the activities of the U.K.C.C. would be ended as soon as Armistice was declared.

Dealing with sterling and dollar balances, the Kumararajah said that the time was now ripe for the Government of India to build up its own dollar resources on at least current balances and not allow these balances to be merged in any Empire pool.

Dealing with post-war reconstruction, the Kumararajah pointed out various directions in which reconstruction was urgent and necessary such as hydro-electric and irrigation schemes, heavy industries like chemicals etc. fertilisers, locomotives, ship-building, aircraft and motor (automobile) industry.

He welcomed the plan of economic reconstruction for India which was recently published over the signatures of eminent public men industrialists and economists such as Sir Purushotamdas Thakurdas and seven others.

THE EMPIRE POOL

In the course of his observations on the Empire pool, the President said that since he wrote his speech the Finance Member had announced that His Majesty's Government had agreed to set aside each year, from now onwards, a part of the dollars accruing from India's exports to the U.S.A. apart from and in addition to our current dollar requirements which were met from the Empire dollar pool under the Sterling area arrangements.

"While appreciating the Finance Member's efforts in this matter, I would like to observe that India's current dollar requirements have, so far, been fully covered from our own exports to the U.S.A. which in fact have even provided a favourable trade balance in our trade which the U.S.A. and as such, the Finance Member's statement provides only a partial assurance and would not fully and adequately meet India's legitimate claims."

LEADERS IN JAIL

After the speech six resolutions were put from the chair in quick succession and passed. Of these the first viewed with serious concern" the detention of national leaders and expressed the feeling that their continued detention is not justifiable and therefore the Federation demanded their immediate release, particularly in view of the fact that problems of very grave import are facing the country the solution of which hangs to a large extent on Government securing the general goodwill of the public."

The Federation also strongly expressed the opinion that "with the war nearing its end in Europe, India can only find a proper place and play an effective part in the settlement of post-war problems in an atmosphere which the release of these national leaders and the establishment of a National Government at the Centre would create."

INDIA'S BALANCES ABROAD

In a resolution on India's balance abroad, the Federation reiterated its opinion that India's accumulated Sterling credits should in the first instance be utilised to repatriate British commercial investments in India and with regard to the balance of Sterling credits, the Government of India should secure an undertaking from the British Government that in case the value of the Sterling during or after the war depreciates in terms of gold, the British Government shall compensate the Reserve Bank of India for all its Sterling holdings to the extent of such depreciation.

While noting with satisfaction the Finance Member's announcement that a part of the dollars accruing to India on trade balance will be credited to her, the Federation puts on record the fact that India has so far been deprived of all gold and dollar credits as a result of the Rupee being linked to Sterling and of the dollar requisition order.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA COMMAND

In a third resolution the Federation expressed the opinion that as the operations connected with the South-East Asia Command were part of the Inter-Allied plans based on a global strategy, no liability in respect of this expenditure should be accepted by the Government of India without the approval of the Central Legislature. "Having regard to the acute shortage of foodstuffs in the country and the growing anxiety felt about the recurrence in other parts of the country of the tragedy recently experienced in Bengal, the Federation is of opinion that arrangements for securing foodstuffs from outside sources for the furtherance of the operations connected with the command should be made to avoid further deterioration in the food situation in the country.

CIVIL AVIATION

On civil aviation, the Federation noted with satisfaction that the preparation of a blueprint of Air Transport developments in India was under Government's active consideration, but it trusted that these schemes would be evolved without delay in close collaboration with Indian commercial interests and that the right of developing, operating and maintaining air services within the country would be completely and exclusively vested in Indian companies which were owned and controlled by Indian nationals.

The Federation also felt that any foreign air line operating through India should not have the right to pick up any of the internal traffic in India.

On the U.K.C.C., the Federation put on record that the apprehensions entertained and given expression to at its last annual session regarding the operation and the extension of trade activities of the U.K.C.C. were borne out by the findings of the recently published report from the Committee of Public Accounts submitted to the British Parliament. The Federation in view of these findings pressed the Government of India to make all possible steps in their power to safeguard the interests of Indian trade and commerce, particularly in her export markets in the post-war period.

15-YEAR PLAN

Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar moved: "The Federation welcomes the plan of economic development for India as sponsored by Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas and others and accords its whole-hearted support to the fundamental objectives underlying the scheme. The Federation welcomes the broad proposals for providing elementary needs of the people in regard to food, clothing, housing, sanitation, health and education, by development and expansion of agriculture as well as industries—basic, large-scale, small-scale and cottage.

Mr. Sarkar referred to the country-wide enthusiasm and interest aroused by the plan, which he said had the object of ensuring a minimum standard of life to the common man; certainly not to make the rich richer or the poor poorer but to improve the lot of the have-nots.

Mr G. D. Birla, one of the authors of the plan, seconded the resolution.

Referring to the Finance Member's argument that if the 1,000 crores of our Sterling resources now with the Reserve Bank of India were used for the plan, the backing to the currency might be affected, Mr. Birla said that the total note issue in England amounted to 1,075 million Sterling against which would held by the Bank of England was only one million, that is, only 0.1 per cent. Would anyone, therefore, say that the currency of England just now was not in a solvent position? And if Sterling had no solvency about it—and this was the conclusion which one would arrive at if one was to accept the Finance Member's logic—then to keep Sterling as a backing for Rupee surely was a dangerous proposition.

Mr. Birla emphasised that money was the least important difficulty. The most serious difficulty about planning was scarcity of men, who could take up the job—teachers, doctors, nurses, engineers, builders and other professional men.

Dr Hamid (Bombay) felt that the authors of the plan were putting the cart before the horse, in as much as the formation of a National Government was a condition precedent to the working of the scheme.

Mr. A. D. Shroff (Bombay), one of the authors of the plan. Referring to the criticisms that the plan aimed at strengthening capitalists, said such uncharitable and unfounded criticism must obviously be inspired from interested quarters. While he would leave the actual working of the scheme to a future National Government, he would urge the Government to 'show on or two small mercies.' If the Government, in the terms of the Viceroy's speech, believed that their objectives were the same as that of the authors of the plan, they should do nothing which would make it more difficult to carry this plan into fruition in the future and secondly they should strengthen their statistical organisation so that when the time came for the establishment of a Planning Commission, they would have sufficient and up-to-date data to work upon.

The resolution was passed.

FOOD PROBLEM

The meeting then adopted a lengthy resolution on the food situation in the country which was moved by Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas.

Sir Purhottamdas stated the 'most disgusting thing' in recent months had been the attitude of the Powers that be in keeping England and America ignorant of the developments in the country. When questions were asked in Commons, Mr. Amery, the Secretary of State, had given incomplete and almost misleading replies. The most important thing now said Sir Purshotamdas was to restore confidence in the country and Government should regard the food problem the most important one, side by side, of course, with the military defence of India.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi supporting the resolution compared the methods of rationing in India with those of Great Britain and said in the latter case basic items such as wheat and flour were not rationed. Strangely enough, they had started with rationing basic food such as rice and wheat in India.

Mr. D. N. Sen (Calcutta), Mr M. A. Srinivasan (Mysore), Mr. Isherdas Mallik (Karachi) and Mr. D. R. Naik (Bombay) supported the resolution, which was passed.

The Federation passed a resolution on coal and fuel the course of which it expressed the opinion that the recent scarcity of coal in the country was mainly due to Labour shortage intensified by Government's policy of exporting coal abroad. The Federation asked for the Constitution of an Independent Coal Research Board to study the prevailing conditions and to recommend steps to secure plant and machinery to recover smokeless domestic fuel and other by-products. It also urged the establishment of a Fuel Research Station at Dhanbad.

The resolution was moved by Mr. A. L. Ojha, Calcutta, seconded by Sir Shri Ram, Delhi, and supported by Mr. Madhavlal M. Bhatt, Bombay, and Lala Karamchand Thapar, Calcutta.

The meeting discussed the annual report of the Federation and adopted it.

It will meet again to-morrow morning.—A.P.

(Committee's statement on Budget on page 8)

ESCAPE FROM AJMER JAIL DETENUS

AJMER, March 2.

Two security prisoners Jwalaprasad Sharma and Raghuraj Sing have escaped from the Ajmer Central Jail at night on February 27|28 and despite search they are still at large.

Jwalaprasad had once before attempted to escape and was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment. He had been detained in Ajmer jail since September 1941. Both the prisoners had served long terms of imprisonment formerly in connection with some conspiracy cases.—A. P.

CONGRESS CAPTURES SURAT MUNICIPALITY

SURAT, March 4.

The Congress has secured 35 of the non-Muslim seats in the Surat Municipality. Two of these 40 seats were kept vacant for Parsis, while independents secured three against the Congress. In the Muslim wards, eight Muslim League candidates were elected, the remaining two seats going to Independent Muslim candidates.

The Congress secured 32 seats uncontested.—A.P.

4 Accused In "Torture Trial" To Die

ALGIERS, March 3.

Sentences in the recent "Torture Trial" of officials at the Vichy Concentration Camp at Columb Bechar—Southern Algieria—were announced to-day.

Four of the accused were condemned to death two to penal servitude for life, two to 20 years' penal servitude, and two to ten years' penal servitude. One man was acquitted.

The four sentenced to death were: Sgt. Maj. Finidori and Lt. Xavier Santucci—both Corsicans—Sgt. Major Dauphin (French) and Otto Riepd (German), who was one of the camp guards.

The accused were charged with acts of violence including murder and torture alleged to have been committed on men of the Foreign Legion, who joined up when war was declared.

Evidence was given during the trial that for two years internees at the camp were killed and tortured without mercy by their brutal guards. It was alleged that sick men were left without medical attention and that internees had no adequate water supply and no proper sanitation.—Reuter.

JAP FLEET OUT TO GIVE FIGHT IN INDIAN WATERS?

"N. Y. Herald-Tribune" Expert Surmises Concentration At Singapore

LONDON, (By Cable).

The possibility that the Japanese fleet has withdrawn to Singapore and may engage British units in a naval battle in Indian waters is suggested by Maj George Fielding Eliot, military expert of the "New York Herald-Tribune."

Discussing the disappearance of the Japanese fleet from the Central Pacific, Maj. Eliot declares that heavy units of the fleet must remain in such a position that they have safe communication with a base capable of supplying and repairing them. The Japanese he states, have no such bases outside their home waters except Truk and Singapore. Since the fleet was not found at Truk, it is logical to presume that it may have gone to Singapore and that the Japanese Admirals might be contemplating a "face-saving" action against the British.

Eliot states that it is not known what naval strength the British have in the Bay of Bengal, but a sudden Japanese attack directed towards Ceylon or the east coast of India might perhaps occur. The risk of such an attack would, he adds, be great, but Admiral Shimada might be bitterly reflecting that it would be better to lose some units of his fleet in action than have them knocked out while in harbour, as happened at Truk.

TRIAL OF EX-VICHY MINISTER

LONDON March 4—The trial of Pierre Puchcu, former Vichy Minister of Interior, on a charge of treason is to open to-day before the special military tribunal at Algiers.—Reuter.

Bombay Races

DOUBLE FOR KOLHAPUR'S NEW TRAINER

Lucrative Treble For Talib

(From Our Racing Correspondent)

Form horses figured prominently at Mahaluxmi on Saturday, when the programme for the First Day of the Spring Meeting was run off. In most events firm favourites failed to win, but majority of them who occupied the lower berths having returned small prices, punters were not permitted to aim at big fortunes.

The Kolhapur establishment who from this week raced under the charge of their new trainer, Bhagwagar, had a change in luck when recording a double. Jockey Britt was astride both the Kolhapur candidates, Chanak and Orange Flower.

Trainer Talib who had a spell of lean time, sent out three winners for his patrons during the proceedings.

The day's attractive event, the Chantilly Plate, was convincingly won by the Kolhapur-owned Chanak. Radio Man shaped as the winner for over a mile. Britt who rode the winner had his mount placed second to the early leader till the second enclosure and from there timed his efforts to which the old-stager promptly responded and sailed home by 2 1/2 lengths to spare.

The Maharani of Kashmir's Repartee turned out the facile winner of the last event, the Quarryman Plate, and recorded one minute and fifteen seconds for negotiating the six furlongs.

Rough riding close to the winning post was witnessed in the second division of the Kurla Plate in which Shree Ranjit hoisted first winning account. On returning to the scales, Neoji the rider of Aziz Fadhil who placed fourth lodged a protest against the rider of Red Cross who finished second. The Stewards held a lengthy enquiry into the affair and squashed the protest.

The following are the results:—

THE WORLI PLATE. Division III.—Distance 5 furlongs.

Mr R J Sigtia's SOLAR KISS 8-4 Evans 1
H H the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior's CINDRELLA 8-4 F Mohd. 2
Nawabzada Yemin-ul-Mulk of Bhopal's JAMEELA 8-4 B McQuade 3
H H the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda's LOVE ME 8-4 Britt 4

Not run: Wing Commander, Golden Flame and Lady Linda.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 35. Places Rs. 17, Rs. 69 and Rs. 35.

Trainer: Talib.

THE WORLI PLATE. Division II—Distance 5 furlongs.

H H Dowager Maharani of Kolhapur's IRISH RIGHT 8-7 Stead 1
Mr R J Sigtia's SNAKY HIPS 8-4 Evans 2
H H the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda's JUNGLE PRINCESS 8-4 Britt 3
Mr E D Pandole's BATHURST 8-7 Sibbritt 4

Not run: Royal Jester and Manjri Delight.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 47. Places Rs. 19, Rs. 21 and Rs. 19

Trainer: Higgins.

THE MUMBRA PLATE.—Distance 1 1/2 miles.

Mr K T Sampat's DAHMAN RAMZI 8-6 H Singh 1
Mr Saleh Moosa's JASSIR 7-7 Raut 2
Maharaja of Baroda's GUIDING STAR 9-0 Russi M 3
Messrs Minzley and Badruddin's STAR BRILLIANT 8-9 Gulamali 4

Not run: Hindustan.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 36. Places Rs. 15, Rs. 17 and Rs. 21

Trainer: Dinshaw.

THE KURLA PLATE. Division II.—Distance 1 mile.

Mr Chandulal J Shah's SHREE RANJIT 8-10 Kheemsingh 1
Mr Saleh Moosa's RED CROSS 9-0 Bhoorsingh 2
Mr Rahiman's INTIDHAR AL SHABAB 9-0 Virsingh 3
Mr Moshi Gurji Raphael's AZIZ FADHIL 9-0 Neoji 4

Not run: Prince Falih and Muzahim Ameer.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 87. Places Rs. 25, Rs. 24 and Rs. 14.

Trainer: Talib.

THE WORLI PLATE. Division I.—Distance 5 furlongs.

Messrs. Hope and Chandulal J Shah's SUNBATHING 8-7 Evans 1
H H the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda's KING'S JESTER 8-12 Britt 2
H H the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior's JAIWANT 8-12 Roberts 3
Sir Homi Mehta's REX 8-7 Raffaele 4

Not run: Gold Legion, Happy Fate Shabnam.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 42. Places Rs. 11, Rs. 11 and Rs. 11

Trainer: Talib.

THE CHANTILLY PLATE.—Distance 1 1/4 miles.

Maharani of Kolhapur's CHANAK 9-0 Britt 1
Mrs. Justice's HAUT TON 8-8 Jones 2
Maharaja of Gwalior's RADIO MAN 8-2 Roberts 3
Mr M D Petit's TORCH ROYAL 7-9 Percival 4

Not run: Gay Spaniard.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 28. Places Rs. 12, Rs. 14 and Rs. 12.

Trainer: K D Bhagavagar.

THE STAYERS' PLATE.—Distance 1 1/4 miles.

Maharani of Kolhapur's ORANGE FLOWER 9-4 Sibbritt 1
Mr M D Petit's KOTOR 8-8 Evans 2
Mr A S Tyebjee's SUNDIAL 7-9 West 3
Rao Bahadur D A Surve's WONDERFUL 9-1 Rook 4

Not run: Nawabzada and Royal Windsor.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 34. Places Rs. 15, Rs. 15 and Rs. 28.

Trainer: K D Bhagavagar.

THE KURLA PLATE. Division I.—Distance 1 mile.

Maharaja of Gwalior's ASMAN TARA 8-8 Roberts 1
Messrs Baburao Patel and D K Parker's NEW JACK 9-0 Sibbritt *2
Mr R J Sigtia's CHAUVE SOURIS 8-10 Evans *2
Thakore Saheb of Lathi and Kumar Shri Harishchandrasinhji of Lathi's KAID SAOUD 9-4 A Ahmed 4

Not run: Malik al Jiyad.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 37. Places Rs. 14, Rs. 17 and Rs. 17

Trainer: Major Jadhav.

THE QUARRYMAN PLATE.—Distance 6 furlongs.

Maharani of Kashmir's REPARTEE 8-7 Jones 1
Maharaja of Gwalior's MADHAVVILAS 7-7 F Mohd. 2
Maharaja of Gwalior's KHAN BAHADUR 9-3 Roberts 3
Raja of Akalkot and Shrimant Jaysinhrao P Ghatge's BLACK MAGIC 9-0 Sibbritt 4

Not run: Star of Sirohi and Mr. Windsor.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 17. Places Rs. 23, Rs. 54 and Rs. 22.

Trainer: Shinde.

Federation Criticises Soaring War Bill

Why Send Indian Troops Abroad And Impose More Burdens By Drafting British To Defend Country?

NEW DELHI, March 3.

The Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in a statement on the Budget observe that "while the demands of the war must take precedence in war-time budgets, yet they have serious misgivings as to whether the allocation of defence expenditure that has to be incurred by India, and for which purpose, heavy levies are being sought to be imposed upon her, is really equitable and in her best interests.

"Further, the Finance Member himself has felt emboldened to reccgnise the serious strain to which Indian economy has been put owing to the war and to concede that a serious breakdown should, at all costs, be avoided by providing necessary safeguards to ensure economic stability.

"In this context, the Committee cannot but deplore the absence of any clear indication of an active and positive policy in the Finance Member's statement for promoting the economic well-being of the country.

NO PURPOSE IN NATIONAL FINANCE

"The absence of a constructive purpose and programme in national finance is never so evident as in the consistent lack of emphasis on the need of enhancing domestic production as an integral part of the Government's plan to deal with the prevailing economic maladies. The Finance Member has observed, that the inevitable increases of the demand upon India's resources should be compensated by imports of food, bullion or other capital or consumer goods.

"The importance of increasing production to meet the scarcity of consumer goods through an energetic production drive including import of capital goods, plants and machinery, has not been adequately recognised, especially when shipping facilities could have been equally made available for import of capital goods for indigenous manufactures. Priority, however, is given to haphazard controls without having an efficient machinery at their disposal for enforcing such controls, while the Finance Member's lament about the lack of adequate personnel operating the variety of control is a sad comment on the Government's past policy in education and administration in this country

"The committee cannot help observing that on the plea of combating inflation, it appears that Government are more anxious to import civilian consumers' goods instead of affording all necessary facilities for enhancing domestic production.

"The committee would, at the very outset, observe that certain proposals such as, for example, estate duty on non-agricultural property, which are put forward in the budget, for the purpose of post-war reconstruction, are not acceptable so long as the Government themself have not laid before the public their post-war reconstruction plan".

WHY BRITISH TROOPS FOR INDIAN DEFENCE

The committee note the assurance given by the Finance Member at more than one place that the cost of the South East Asia Command does not add to, or diminish, India's liability for defence expenditure. Three is widespread public misgiving, however, that the terms of the financial settlement with H M G are being widened in its application and interpretation so as to include items of expenditure under India's war measures which cannot legitimately be debitable to India.

The committee have been unable to understand the policy of sending Indian troops abroad and replacing them by British troops to defend India, thereby imposing upon India a more onerous burden of maintaining British troops which cost the country several times more than the cost incurred in maintaining Indian troops, to whom a handsome tribute has been paid all round and particularly by His Excellency and who could surely be trusted to defend their native soil. The committee would also like to stress that India's contribution to the common war effort should take into account the purchase of commodities in India at controlled prices as well as the carriage of war transport by Indian railways at concessional rates.

BURDENS ALL ROUND

The committee state that India's finances exhibit a continuous and accelerating burden on all sections of India's population. They state that the treatment of undistributed profits and grant of rebate is likely to create an anomaly in its working in view of the fact that private limited concerns are forced under the taxing laws of the country to distribute sixty per cent. of their profits, and if such profits are not distributed they are deemed to be distributed under the act for tax purposes. Government should remove this anomaly to give full advantage of the rebate offer.

The increased burdens on industry, including the total immobilisation of the excess profits, would tend to undermine the stimulus to production which, on the contrary, needs definite encouragement as part of a policy of increased production. In the opinion of the committee, the policy, of increasing production at this stage would not only mitigate the evils of inflation but would also help in removing the growth of black markets.

It must also be pointed out that any setback to industry would necessarily have adverse repercussions on agriculture, because agriculture has mainly to depend not so much on world markets as on the internal market whose conditions would deteriorate in the absence of demand by industries.

STERLING ASSETS

"The Committee have to state that the position in regard to several matters of vital importance such as the utilisation and safeguarding of sterling assets or the proper allocation of lease-lend benefits as between HMG and the Government of India as well as the allocation of Air Force Expenditure between HMG and India, remains as nebulous as hitherto, and the Finance Member has not thrown any light upon it As regards the sale of gold as an anti-inflationary measure. the Committee understands that His Majesty's Government and the Government of the U S A are selling gold in this country at the prevailing price in the Indian Market and not that fixed in the U K U S A.

The Committee fail to understand why the Government of India should not insist upon them to tender gold in the U.K. and the U.S.A. at a price fixed in those countries against the purchases from India, which in fact are made available to them at prices fixed in this country Furthermore, import of silver as an anti-inflationary measure can only be justified if the price charged to India is the same as that prevailing in the U.S.A.

"The Finance Member's announcement for setting aside each year from now onwards a part of the dollars from India's exports to the U.S.A is only a belated and partial rectification of the injustice done to India since the Rupee was linked to sterling.

The federation had then pointed out that one inevitable consequence of linking the Rupee to sterling would be the division of all gold and dollar credits accruing to India for the bolstering up of the value of sterling. and India so far has been deprived of many millions of dollars which should, in the ordinary course, have been made available to her. The federation, therefore, must insist that at least even at this late stage. all dollars accruing to India, whether as trade balance or otherwise, should be credited to India and that the Reserve Bank of India Act should be amended to make it possible for the Reserve Bank to hold its dollars on account of India.

"The federation would also like to sound a note of warning that the dollars thus accumulated for India's account should not be appropriated in future for any purpose connected with any international monetary arrangements, to which India may be made a partner and that such dollars should be held till they can be utilised to the best interests of the country for import of capital goods after the war.

LEASE-LEND QUESTION

"As regards the question of Lease-Lend, the Committee deplore that its full implications as between H.M.G. and India have not yet been fully clarified. It would appear that originally it was understood that India would be liable under Lend-Lease only for the first of the three main forms of aid mentioned by the Finance Member, viz., reciprocal aid to U.S. Forces in India for the Defence of India only, such as, in the shape of rations, clothing, ordanance and other stores, the construction of housing accommodation, air fields and connected works, and the provision of transportation, communication and maintenance of facilities of various kinds.

"Gradually the scope of the aid to be given by India is being widened to include the second and third forms of aid, viz., Reciprocal aid to U.S. shipping using Indian ports in the shape of port dues of all kinds, ship repairs and so on, and available raw materials and available foodstuffs such as tea required by U.S. Governmnt directly for war purposes. The Committee feels strongly that this is a dangerous extension of the scope of reciprocal aid to be rendered by India.

"The Committee would urge that in so far as relation between H.M.G. and India is concerned in respect of Lend-Lease aid to be rendered by India, the guiding principle should be that India is to be responsible for such portion of American expenditure in India that is incurred for India's defence only and that it should not exceed the value of such Lend-Lease aid received by her for her own defence purposes only.

As such, the Committee would strongly urge that if India has to render any Lend-Lease aid for purposes of war expenditure outside India, the expenditure therefore should be borno by H.M.G. and not by India."—A. P

GRIGG'S DEAL FOR BURMA

Absence Of Declaration Of Freedom

(From A Correspondent.)

LONDON, March 4.

Political circles here interpret as unsatisfactory the recent statement made by Sir James Grigg, War Minister, regarding plans for preliminary military administration of Burma. They point to the absence of specific declarations of freedom for those possessions whose peoples, they consider, must be convinced of the Allies' good faith.

Sir James in his statement observed that "plans for preliminary military administration of Burma as it was reoccupied has been worked out and for other British Far East possession is being worked out."

SAPRU TO PRESIDE OVER INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS

NEW DELHI, March 4.

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru arrived in Delhi this morning to preside over the Indian Council of World Affairs and not the Indian Institute of International affairs as reported last night.—A. P.

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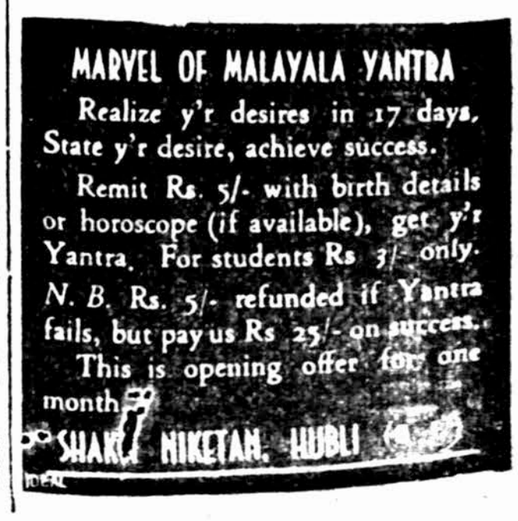
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CITY AND SUBURBS

TO-DAY

Hindu: Falgun Shud 11, 2000
Muslim: Rabi-ul-Avval 9, 1363
Parsi: Meher 3, 1313

Sunrise: 7-56 a.m. Sunset: 7-44 p.m.

Hightide: 8-54, 22-22. Lowtide: 3-47, 15-09

To-day's Engagements

CHILDREN'S DAY AT MATUNGA: "Children's Day" celebration of the Municipal Tamil Malayalam, Telugu and Kannada Schools will be held to-day (Sunday) at 4 p.m. (N. S. T.), in the Hall of the Khalsa College, near King's Circle Garden, Matunga (G. I. P.) K. A. Subramaniam, Municipal Councillor, will preside.

THE KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION: His Holiness Shrimat Andasharam Swamiji of Shri Chitrapur Math (Shirali, N. Kanara) will arrive in Bombay to-day (Sunday) at 10-45 a.m. by the Poona Mail at Victoria Terminus and will be received by Dewan Bahadur N. R. Gundil. His Holiness will be given an address by the Association at 4-30 p.m. in the Association Hall.

RAMAKRISHNA VIVEKANANDA CENTRE: M. R. Gopalachar will conduct the weekly class on 'Bhagwat Geeta' at the Centre Premises at 64, Portuguese Church Street, Dadar, B. B. & C. I. Railway, at 10 a.m. to-day (Sunday).

FRIENDS OF SOVIET UNION: Members and sympathisers will meet to-day (Sunday) at 10 a.m. at Orient High School Hall, Lady Jamshedji Road, Shivaji Park, when Com. S. Y. Kolhatkar will speak on "Soviet Union's Attitude Towards Poland and Baltic Countries."

ANJUMAN-I-ISLAM OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION: Adjourned annual general meeting at Anjuman Hall, Hornby Road, to-day (Sunday) at 11-30 a.m.

ARYA SAMAJ Kakadwadi, Girgaon Swami Vishuddhanandji Maharaj will deliver a public lecture on "Ideal of Life" at 7-30 p.m. to-day (Sunday).

UNITED LODGE OF THEOSOPHISTS: Public Lecture on "On Moral Retribution", Jehangir Wadia Building, Flora Fountain, to-day (Sunday) 6-15 p.m.

BUDDHA SOCIETY: There will be a public lecture by Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, in the Anand Vihara, Nair Hospital Compound, near Bombay Central Station, to-day (Sunday) at 10 a.m. (S. T.) on "Lord Buddha's Original Teachings and Their Transformation", Contd.

SHRI KRISHNA GITA PATHSHALA Ved Shastra Sampan Shri Kavishwar Buva will recite Hari Kirtan at Kolbhat Lane, Bhatia Mahajanwadi on Kalbadevi Road at 6 p.m. (S. T.), to-day (Sunday).

MUSLIM STUDENTS' UNION: The 28th Annual General Meeting of the Union will be held to-day (Sunday) at 10-30 a.m. in the Union Hall at 3, Bastion Road, Next to Empire Cinema Fort, Bombay.

GAUDIYA MISSION: Upadesak Pandit Nitaidas Brahmachari Bhakti Sastry Ragalankar on "Universality of Devotion" in English to-day (Sunday) 6-30 p.m. Culliandas Building, Gowalia Tank Road; "Sankirtanam" will precede and follow.

FREEDOM GROUP: A condolence meeting of the Freedom Group, will be held in memory of the late Kasturba to-day (Sunday) at 5-30 p.m. in the rooms of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, near Churchgate Railway Station. There will be prayers, devotional songs, resolution, etc.

BORIVLI ENGLISH SCHOOL: The social gathering of the Borivli English School which was to be held to-day (Sunday) has been postponed to Friday 10th March due to Sunday being declared a national mourning day by Malaviyaji.

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GOVERNOR'S ADVISER IN KHANDESH

Invites Suggestions From People For Increasing Food Supplies

BOMBAY, March 3

Mr. H. P. Knight, Adviser to the Governor, visited Jalgaon on Thursday and presided at a meeting of select representatives from Jalgaon and the District to discuss the present food problem in East Khandesh.

Opening the proceedings, Mr. Knight announced that as the Government of India had refused to send any food supplies to the Bombay Province, the East Khandesh District, though a deficit area, should not hope for, nor depend upon any outside food supplies and therefore the present problem was how to make the best use of the present food supplies in the District for local use for the rest of the season. He invited suggestions from the gathering and said that Government would give due consideration to them.

Several speakers stressed the great food deficit in East Khandesh and urged the necessity of importing food from outside, particularly the adjoining West Khandesh District which had ample food resources.

The suggestions made at the meeting included compulsory growing of food crops in the District to as large an extent as 70 per cent of the total acreage, deforestation of large reserved forest areas and granting these lands for cultivation, bringing into immediate use the disused wells in the District and increasing garden crops, cultivating of early maturing crops such as maize and udid in the new season.

Other suggestions were immediate introduction of rationing in villages, stricter control distribution, immediate distribution to village landless labourers of food from Government collections, importing of rice for relieving pressure on jowar and bajri.

Mr. Knight thanked the gathering for their suggestions and said that Government would consider them.—A. P.

MAHARASHTRA CONSPIRACY CASE TO BE WITHDRAWN

POONA, March 3.

It is understood that the Maharashtra conspiracy case in which Mr. N G. Gore, Secretary of the Maharashtra Congress Socialist Party and other 42 youths standing trial in the committing Magistrate's Court for alleged subversive activities in Maharashtra will be withdrawn by prosecution

It is likely that about a dozen youths of this case will be prosecuted individually for prejudicial acts.—United Press.

ALL-INDIA MUSIC CONGRESS

Under the auspices of the Vikramaditya Celebrations Committee that recently arranged the All-India Music Congress in Bombay, a meeting has been arranged to honour the grand old man in the Classical Indian Music world—Gayan Samrat Khan Saheb Alladiakhan at 6 p.m. today (Sunday) at the Lady Northcote Hindu Orphanage Hall, Chawpatty Road, near Baboolnath temple. The Rt. Hon. Dr. M. R. Jayakar will preside on the occasion. It has been decided by the Committee to present to the renowned artiste with a suitable purse in recognition of his services to the cause of Indian Classical Music.

VILLAGE INDUSTRIES EMPORIUM

The organiser of the Village Industries Emporium, Opp. Post Office, Matunga, writes: To bring to the notice of the public and the long-standing clienteles that there is only one institution of its name and address in Bombay, chartered by the All-India Village Industries Association.

DADAR CHARKA MANDIR

Under the auspices of the Shivaji Park Charkha Sangh and the Dadar Charkha Mandir, prayer meeting will be held, in the memory of the late Kasturba Gandhi, today (Sunday) at places and time shown below.

(1) Palanji Sojpal Building Portuguese Church Street Dadar at 9-30 a.m. (morning).

(2) Shivaji Park Charkha Sangh, Meena House, Plot No. 132, Road No. 2, Shivaji Park at 5 p.m. (Evening).

At Shivaji Park Charkha Sangh, Miss Rahanaben Tyabjee and Miss Saroj Nanavati will lead the prayers.

LALITKALODYAN: A concert of vocal music by Mrs. Saraswati Rane (Saraswati Mane) will be held at Marwari Vidyalaya Hall Sandhurst Road today (Sunday) at 4-30 p.m. (N.S.T.)

INDIAN SEAMEN'S UNION: Public meeting to-day (Sunday) at Masjid Siding Road (Motor Stand) Princes Dock Clock Tower at 7 p.m. Dr. M. R. Shetty will preside

The aim of the meeting mainly is the proposed Deputation to the Government of India to put before them the grievances and demands of the Bombay Seamen.

THIS MORNING AT ROXY

Under the auspices of Vikas Mandal 'Devdas' is to be screened at Roxy Talkies at 9-30 a.m. today (Sunday).

Under the auspices of the Bombay Goan Welfare Organisation, Mr. R. S. Lopez, B.A. will explain the Senate resolution and Disaffiliation today (Sunday) at 5-30 p.m. at Dr. Shroff's Compound Opposite St. Rita School, Love Lane, near Gloria Church Byculla

Dr. Juliao Menezes will preside.

FRESH TALENT IN STAR LINE-UP

Balgandharva To Preside Over Bombay Celebration Of Marathi Stage Centenary

The talent-market in film acting is steadily on the rise. It is indeed surprising to see how few producers, even veterans, venture to try new artistes. Every attempt at building up a

Anita Sharma in "Mazaq" next Friday at Kamal.

new star is, therefore, to be heartily commended. Among the new artistes who hold promise of stardom, is Anita Sharma who makes her debut in Raja Movietone's social comedy "Mazaq" at Kamal Talkies on Friday next.

Credit for giving this promising girl a chance, goes to Zahur Raja, proprietor of Raja Movietone, and producer, scenarist and director of "Mazaq". So far as the cast is concerned, he has lined up such stars of proved merit and known popularity as Madhuri, Pahari Sanyal, Radha Rani and Shyam. In the midst of these stalwarts, the newcomer Anita Sharma is given an important role. It is a great chance; and, if the artiste picks it up successfully, it will be an achievement to Zahur Raja's credit.

CINE TECHNICIANS ALIVE

The Cine Technicians of India have sent to Gandhiji their humble prayers in his and the Nation's great bereavement, saying that in Kasturba's death, the Nation has lost a great soul, a model of Indian womanhood and a great patriot.

They also sent a message to Mrs. Phalke, wife of Mr. Phalke in the following terms:

"Twenty-nine years back at Nasik, Dada Saheb Phalke started a venture new to India, the making of motion pictures. To-day that venture has become a great national industry, employing over 50,000 people. It goes to the credit of Dada Saheb Phalke that his single-handed struggle and vision brought it to such a financial success. We, the Cine Technicians, and the Film Industry always considered him a genius and a very genial father. This Industry, to-morrow will rise to greater heights, but it shall never forget Dada Saheb Phalke, its great pioneer."

MARATHI STAGE CENTENARY

Mr. Narayan Shripad Rajahansa, better known as Balagandharva has been elected to preside over the ten-day function arranged by the Marathi Sathitya Sangh for the celebration of the Marathi stage Centenary in Bombay.

This centenary has, so far, been suitably observed at Sangli, the birthplace of Marathi drama, Nagpur, Nasik, Poona and Kolhapur. Even in Bombay there recently was observed a five-day programme by the theatrical companies on the Robert Money School Compound. Also, dramatic clubs and lovers of plays joined together one week-end to celebrate the same, with Mr. Vartak, playwright in the chair.

But all these efforts will be put in the shade, by what the Marathi Sahitya Sangh has planned. This programme is scheduled for some suitable days in April.

SUNDAY MORNING SHOWS

Aurora: "A Chump at Oxford" at 10-30 a.m.—Laurel Hardy.

Palace: "Hudson's Bay" at 10-30 a.m.—Paul Muni.

Edward: "Four Sons" at 10-30 a.m. —Don Amache.

Paradise: "Sunny" at 10-30 a.m.—Anna Neagle.

Bandra: "Lucky Partners" at 10-30 a.m.—Ginger Rogers.

Strand: "The Citadel" at 10-30 a.m.—Rosalind Russel.

Eros: "Blood and Sand" at 10 a.m. —Tyrone Power.

Regal: "Ride 'Em Cowboy" at 10-30 a.m.—Abbot Costello.

Metro: "Three Hearts for Julia" at 10 a.m.—Douglas Ann.

RATION!

The Village Industries Emporium, Matunga, is able to supply all its registered card-holders with hand-pounded rice—recommended by Nutrition Research Laboratories Coonoor and by the Government of Bombay.

Hand-pounded rice is nutritive and contains vitamin 'B'.

SOPHIA COLLEGE

To-day's Protest Meeting

A mass meeting of Christians will be held at St. Xavier's College, Gymkhana Grounds, Parel, today (Sunday) at 5-30 p.m. to adopt the following resolution:

This public meeting of Christians of Bombay, representing all denominations, while recognising the efforts of the distinguished members of all communities in the interests of Justice, records its emphatic protest against the action of the University Senate in passing a motion for disaffiliation of the Sophia College based on groundless and irrelevant allegations and after an incomplete enquiry which offended ordinary rules of procedure and elementary principles of equity

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor of the University, to the Provincial Government and the Government of India.

Dr. P. A. Dias, Mayor of Bandra, will preside.

Among the speakers are Dr. J. A. Collaco, Mr Jos. Alex Dias, Mr. R. Ferguson Prof. J. F. R. d'Almeida, Mr. F. A. Rego, Mr. J. S. S Malelu, and Mr. F. Gama Rose.

Ratnagiri Food Situation

A deputation consisting of Rao Bahadur S. K. Bole, President of the Ratnagiri District Food Conference, Dr. Sawant, Chairman of the Reception Committee and President of the Ratnagiri Municipality and Mr. G. Patwardhan waited upon Mr. J. Booth, I.C.S., Director of Civil Supplies (Districts) and Mr. B. P. Patel, I.C.S., Collector of Ratnagiri District at Ratnagiri and placed before them the following proposals:—

That 75,000 tons of food grains be sent to Ratnagiri before the monsoon, that rice No. 2 as in Bombay and Nagli instead of Bajri be provided, that more Government Grain shops be opened, distribution of grain to these shops be made through Government Agency and not through merchants, rice should be requisitioned from big landlords and not from small holders. After some discussion the deputationists were told that the proposals would receive sympathetic consideration.

Prior to this on representation made by Rao Bahadur S. K. Bole in Bombay Colaba rice is being provided to Ratnagiri and the rate of boiled rice is reduced from Rs. 1-7-6 to Rs. 1-2-6 per paylee.

CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION IN KARACHI

KARACHI, March 4: The Right Honourable M. R. Jaykar has consented to inaugurate the Civil Liberties Union in Karachi in April next.—United Press.

26th Week

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HAMARI BAAT

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20th WEEK
at
MAJESTIC
Today Matinee 1-30
4, 7, 10 P. M.

10,000 Crore Economic Plan X-Rayed

Manu Subedar Says Front Place Must Be Given To Village Industries And Foundation Of Economic Edifice Must be Co-operation Of Poor Whose Condition Must Improve

The Sastu Sahitya Vardhak Karyalaya of Ahmedabad have brought out a very useful brochure, giving the Fifteen-Year Plan of the industrialists and some very useful statistics in Gujarati are appended thereto. Mr. Manu Subedar, the Chairman of the Trust, has written an introduction giving some very weighty and valuable hints and warnings.

The following are extracts from the introduction.

The authors of this scheme have clearly shown by facts and figures how backward India is in comparison with other countries in the world.

In welcoming this plan, whose authors are actuated by the best of motives, no harm would be done to the ultimate goal.

This ultimate goal is the physical, economic and moral amelioration of the poor population of India. Thirty-five years ago the Swadeshi movement assumed tremendous proportions and its benefit was reaped by the industries of India, but its imperfection is clearly understood today, and in reaching this understanding we owe much to Mahatma Gandhi. The unsatisfactory aspect was that, just as imported goods destroyed the skill, the occupation and the spirit of artisans in India, so did foreign factories erected in this country and Indian factories based on the foreign model take away the livelihood of millions of people and render skilled labour into unskilled. In short, progress in one direction was counter-balanced by deterioration elsewhere. This process has happened for many years and it is both inhuman and terrible. It is necessary to see that such a mistake does not occur in a future plan. The object of securing economic expansion in India should be to bring strength and joy in the lives of millions of people. There is no sense in the geographical expression 'India', unless there is this sort of sustained feeling towards the 'whole' population. Progress in India must spell the progress of the 'whole' population of this country. The foundation of successful enterprise in India should be the welfare of the largest number. There will not be universal readiness to make sacrifices in activities, which secure imperfect results. It is good that goods must be produced in India, instead of being imported from abroad, but that is not everything. The capital and management of industries in India should be in Indian hands, but is is dangerous to have technical foremen and machinery imported. The foundation of an economic edifice must be through the co-operation of millions of poor people, whose condition must improve at the same time. It is necessary to keep in mind that the limited resources of India are not spent in hasty and uncontrolled activities.

FRONT PLACE TO VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

Amongst the artisans, who have suffered much in this manner during the last one hundred and fifty years, the majority were Muslims and Harijans. If this phenomenon can be reversed, the largest benefit would also reach Muslims and Harijans. In any plans of economic expansion in India, the first and the biggest benefit must reach those, whose economic resources are the lowest. It is for this reason that I urge in any plan the front place for village industries.

There will be little difference of opinion with regard to the steps proposed for the improvement of agriculture, but there are two sides to the question with regard to goods produced from factories. Many factories in this country are destroying the livelihood of thousands and millions of artisans. Production increases in one direction and diminishes in another direction. There is a likelihood of the most serious mistake, if we keep our eyes on the figures of increased factory production. In the economic history of India, many examples could be found of this phenomenon. Therefore it is necessary to secure progress in such a way that artisans engaged in work do not lose their livelihood and handicrafts are not uprooted.

Mahatma Gandhi has, after close thinking, declared the cult of humanity. According to this, it is indicated that industry must be taken to the man. We must not perpetrate the horror of drawing men from village surroundings, into city life, where there would be filth, adulterated food, irregular health conditions, overcrowding in dark rooms and other things destructive of the moral foundation of life. We have hardly been able to arrange suitable conditions for labour at present working in the cities. The suggestion of increasing their number five-fold must be therefore regarded as extremely hazardous and dangerous. A scheme, in which money paid out for machinery goes abroad, the labouring class remains in degraded condition, but dividends are good and industrialists make good profits, cannot be regarded as expansion of industry

The foundation of the Wardha scheme of education and of village industries has been the same. Send two or three capable artisans expert in their work in a village. Guarantee them their livelihood on the same basis, on which they would make an earning when they were working elsewhere. Supply them with tools and implements and with the raw materials. Put into their assistance men, who will help them and learn children will take a little longer time). In a few months the men will begin to work well and the original expert artisans would then be merely supervising. The work of carrying away the finished goods would be done by the state, or by an 'ad hoc' committee (constituted on a statutory basis). When this is done for every district, the central board for the province would correlate all this. Production would increase. The young and the old would be all trained up to a large extent, and the high path of the elimination of the middleman is indicated. Capital would be engaged for the raw material, implements and upto the stage where the finished goods are sold. Such capital should be secured on a basis of national credit at three per cent or such lower rate as possible. As the men adapt themselves and train more, they would be getting from one anna upto eight annas per day (the students would get from one pice to one anna). In this manner men would work in natural surroundings of their village when they are not engaged on agriculture and they would add materially to their income. Millions of people would thus produce goods in the course of a year, of which to a large extent, they will be themselves consumers. Many things could be produced in very large quantity in this manner and very cheap. Some villages would be engaged in making caps, some shoes (Indian pattern), some hosiery. There would be sewing of shirts in some villages, and elsewhere ther would be handlooms. Numerous things could be produced, such as soap, paper, candles, furniture, carpentery, paints and varnish, brass polish, tinsmith work, strawboard, containers, toys, ink, brush, rope, medicines, buttons, pencils, parts of gramophone, radio, cycle, time-pieces and clocks, etc. The list is illustrative, but not exhaustive.

FACTORIES FOR BASIC INDUSTRIES ONLY

It is my belief that in the course of the next ten years the production of handicrafts in India could be increased twenty times over what it is to-day. This is the method of increasing the livelihood of millions of people and improving their life in every direction. The capital and resources required in such progress would be relatively less and, what is more important, the bulk of the equipment necessary could be produced in India itself.

The skill of the eyes, touch and other faculties with reference to colour, shape, measure, weight, etc., could be developed and the children of India, who are at present growing up, playing in mud, without any training, would secure for half the day a very useful and important basis of training. The other half they would engage in acquiring literacy, for which facilities could be made.

It is my belief that this is the way to secure quick and great results, not merely because of the moral superiority of the teachings of Gandhiji, but because of the limited resources of India. To increase physical capacity and skill of a large number of workers, village industries is the best method. This is a method of securing skilled labour from a mass of millions of unskilled men and women. Let the old factory industry go on as it is, but it is essential to arrange that new industries must only be set up for those things, which cannot be manufactured in this manner in villages and to a large extent by hand labour. As illustration of things, for which factories may therefore be set up, may be mentioned, steel, sulphuric acid, large steamers, locomotive engines, motors, dynamo, rolling mills, cement, aluminium (primary production) etc.; in short, industries, which could be regarded as large industries or basic industries.

Economic matters could be separated from other elements of life merely for the purpose of thought. In action they must all be together. This truth has been appreciated by the authors of the plan and therefore they have said that their plan could not be acted upon until a National Government with complete freedom in economic matters is established. This is, however, not the only requirement. Millions of men and women must understand this scheme and welcome it. Not only must they give active support and co-operations, but they must show selflessness; in short, soul force, which reigns in the heart of human beings, and then only these ambitious programmes could be effected. A few men may think out a plan and may publish it, but the plan, which ultimately will succeed, is not one, which could be enforced by the authority of Government. It must be one, which would receive the consent and evoke the enthusiasm of the *whole* people. The authors of the plan do not claim that they are giving expression to the final economic goal of a self-governing India. They have merely put forward some ideas, which they hope would be helpful in preparing everybody to give that definite co-operation, which is required.

PERTINENT QUESTIONS

It is stated that capital goods (machinery and equipment) would be imported from abroad. Shall we get good stuff, i.e., of the latest type and design? Will not old material, carelessly used during the war, be forced on India after being painted over and reconditioned at an excessive price? Shall we get cheap and good material? Will there not be pressure to buy only from Britain? These questions will arise.

Will the industry, which has been propped up by 75 per cent tariff protection against Japan, hold its own, when such tariffs are removed? Similarly, will tariff protection be granted to all the new industries which are proposed? If it is given, the burden will fall on the common mass. It is important that the minimum and most necessary burden should fall on that general population, which has suffered so much during the war, which has paid four times and six times for all goods, including food, and which has borne heavy rates and many inconveniences in connection with posts, telegraphs and railways. In short, goods must be produced at a reasonable price. However necessary industrial progress may be, care must be taken that it is not secured at too heavy a price.

When industry has expanded, it would be necessary to see that the progress is maintained. At present, boom conditions are evident as the result of inflation, but the inevitable depression, which comes thereafter, must be borne in mind. Statesmen all over the world are assuring their respective countries, that they will prevent the sort of depression, which followed the last war, but such assurances are neither convincing nor satisfactory, because, in this war the destruction of men and property has been much bigger and more extensive. Economic depression is like a tidal wave. It would not only destroy those industries, which are unsound, but it may drag down carefully reared necessary enterprises.

If the new industries are to be protected and strengthened, they must be sustained against aggressive foreign commercial competition as well as against thoughtless rivalry inside the country; in short, monopolies are indicated. It must be mentioned that, while the burden of protection falls on the common people, who buy their goods dear, it is unjust that the profits arising from enterprises should go to private pockets. Monopolistic enterprises must be in the hands of the state, so that the profits could be used for reducing the burden of taxation. If the state can get money at three per cent, it is unfair that the public should be asked to consent to schemes, which are set up in the name of the nation and which will give the capitalist five, ten or twenty-five per cent.

In the village industries as well as in the new basic industries, many able men would have to work and render assistance in many ways. Industrialists might have their doubts as to whether such men could be attracted, if there is no profit, running into thousands and lakhs of rupees for them. Such a fear, however, should not be entertained, even from the point of view of the west. The objectives of peace are very much more important than the objectives of war and yet, in the matter of war, millions of people have left their work and their homes and become soldiers on a small salary. This will show that the highest work is not done on the basis of a money reward. In our country thousands of people are engaged at great personal sacrifice, without any monetary return, in activities relating to politics, social life and work, literature, music, art, labour organization, medical relief and other fields of public life. Russia, who has demonstrated her strength of organization and discipline, not only imposed great sacrifice on the common people but also on the part of a good many outstanding and intelligent citizens. Public welfare was given a more important place than any hope of reward. In the mentality of millionaires, it may appear that without a reward nobody would work. To those, who are unduly imbued with western and foreign thought, it may appear that, without high salaries, able men will not come forward, but the general population of India would have great faith and hope in progress in this matter through the example of good men, Sadhus, saints and servants of the people

DEPLORABLE INEQUALITY

During the last five years of his life, since 1910 Gokhale urged the importance of giving compulsory primary education throughout India by means of a loan of one or two crores of rupees, but that did not happen. To-day two crores are being spent, not per year, but per day, in India for purposes from which there can be no permanent improvement or production. When Government plan for the improvement of roads at the expense of four hundred and fifty crores was put forward, men like this writer felt, that it was inhuman and improper to talk of spending crores in such a direction, in a country where people were dying for want of a handfull of grain. When, therefore, the industrialists put forward a scheme of ten thousand crores (a figure that would exceed some of the programmes even in America and in England), it appeared, as if there was an avalanche of wealth! There is the picture, on the one hand, of millions of men and women, who are unable to get enough to eat, and of the entire middle class in India, who would have to calculate every pie and to conduct their life in constant want. Contrast this with the picture, on the other hand of those, whose money is overflowing and who are entertaining all sorts of dreams of expanded wealth and resources from these means,—the rich men of India, one in a hundred thousand, i. e. 1/1000 per cent! Those, who wish to increase the income of the nation, the wealth of the nation and the welfare of the nation, must understand all this and must select the best way possible, with great patience out of this deplorable inequality and disorder.

The economic resources of India are limited compared to other countries. If 'all' these resources must be used in order to reach greater production, would it be possible to continue the control of capital with the capitalists as at present? The plan does not disclose, how it is proposed to give the share of the new production to the 'entire' people. If the scheme is so circumscribed that all the resources are not fully used and the new wealth produced does not reach 'all' the people in equal share, would it be possible to secure all round enthusiasm and co-operation? Without such universal support, it is useless to hope for the success of any scheme. It is possible that basic economic questions, which would shake the whole society, would arise and every one must now train himself to think in such a way, that he can give a direct answer to these questions and that he would be ready to accept a fair basis on these matters.

Any one, who plans out for India, must first think of the present condition. This is a country, which has reached the utmost limit of economic anarchy. The war has killed many, but we shall have to attend to the health of the surviving population, which has deteriorated owing to lack of adequate nourishment. The stocks of materials in shops have been fin-

(Continued on page 12)

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ANTI-INDIAN DRIVE IN W. I. F. A:

By J. C. MAITRA

Never before in the history of the Western India Football Association such a rosy picture was presented by its President as was done by D. Moir to its members at the thirteenth annual general meeting a few days ago. It was a memorable season last year in that there was an excess of income over expenditure to the tune of Rs. 38,861. During my thirty years' connection with the W.I.F.A. I have not seen the Association collecting as much money as it did in the year 1943. It is, indeed, a proud achievement for the office-bearers and Committee members. In addition to the profit made by the Association, it was able to donate a total sum of Rs. 32,357 to various War Funds and Charities. This is another large feather to the cap of the Committee.

EXCELLENT POPULAR SUPPORT

All this was possible due to the excellent support given by the public. The Services undoubtedly gave a big hand to all the tournaments and matches sponsored by the Association. But the civilians including Indians, extended fair support to all the engagements provided by it. The increasing popular support is partly due to the large influx of people from outside and partly it must be attributed to the high standard of football attained by Indians. Were it not for the pep supplied by the latter, the interest in the matches would not have been as great as it was. This is as it should be. We may be sure that this phase of prosperity will continue as long as the present war conditions last. Every well-wisher of the Association—and Bombay's football—has every reason to be happy over the future prospects.

PROVISION FOR THE FUTURE

The sum of Rs. 30,000 has been already invested in Securities and before the present boom period is over I have no doubt this figure will rise much higher, so that the Association will grow from strength to strength in the years to come. It is a matter of great pity, however, that the W.I.F.A. will have to pay a heavy sum—about Rs. 12,000—to the Government by way of income-tax. Last year it had to pay about Rs. 6,000. An association which stands solely for the promotion of sport and physical welfare of the people should not, to my mind, be taxed at all. As a matter of fact, most of the sporting organisations in the country are exempted from it. But the W.I.F.A. does not come within this category and thereby hangs a tale which I shall recount anon.

AN UNJUSTIFIABLE BURDEN

A few months ago authoritative legal opinion was obtained as to how to avoid payment of the income-tax which was a big annual drain from the coffers of the Association. As it is, sport has to pay heavily by way of entertainment tax to support and maintain a costly burcaucracy. Unjustifiable as this burden was, this has been doubled recently for no other reason than the ever increasing expenses of the Government. I can understand—and even appreciate—any form of taxation on sport—for the benefit of sport itself. If all the moneys realised from the Entertainment Tax were utilized for the physical development of the masses—for their healthy recreation—I would even welcome such a step. But we cannot expect it from our present rulers. People must therefore pay through their nose to satisfy the unquenchable thirst of the Moloch!

W.I.F.A. TRANSFORMED

As a result of the legal advice the W.I.F.A. has now dropped its tail of "Limited" with the permission of the Bombay Government. Henceforward the Association will not have to pay, we are assured by the President, any Income-tax. So far so good although Friend M J Vakil of the B.P.H.A. Ltd who is a solicitor himself, expresses some doubt about it. He fears that the Income-tax authorities will still pounce on the W.I.F.A. for their pound of flesh as it remains registered under the Indian Companies Act. We shall wait with interest and see who wins this tug of war in the end. If the W.I.F.A. succeeds, it will be the turn of the B.P.H.A. to drop the "Limited" and re-register itself as a "Benevolent Association", and thereby avoid the obnoxious tax. But if the W.I.F.A. fails, other loopholes will have to be found for escape.

REASON FOR CHANGE

Of course this contingency would not have arisen at all, if the Association had remained as before, or if it was registered as a Benevolent Association. But the rulers of the W.I.F.A. in the year 1931—I was in His Britannic Majesty's Guest House then—thought of converting the old Association to a Limited Liability Company and they promptly translated their wishes to action. The ostensible object of the new move was to place Bombay's football on an organised footing. But there was a greater reason for it under the surface. Prior to 1931, the Association was governed by its affiliated clubs, that is, its Managing Committee, was elected by the latter. This suited the books of those who were then in power as there were very few Indian clubs in existence. I was the solitary Indian representative on the Committee for ten years—from 1921 to 1930.

HOW MY CAMPAIGN TOLD

It so happened that the number of Indian clubs was growing and there was a natural fear on the part of the European office-bearers and members that they might be swept overboard sooner or later. They were therefore anxious to stop club representation on the Committee. They achieved their object without any serious opposition from the Indian quarters, the reason being that they were not well organised at the time. It is true that since the conversion of the Association into a Limited Concern, the representation of Indians on the Committee has been gradually increased. I claim to myself a large part of the credit for it. But for the incessant campaign carried on in these columns, I doubt very much if the proportion of Indians on the Committee would have been as large as it is to-day.

INDIANS AT MERCY OF EUROPEANS

Unfortunately the members are not the truly elected representatives of Indians. They are virtually the nominees of Europeans, because they have to depend mainly on the support of Europeans for their elections. In a membership of about 500, hardly a quarter are Indians. And while the Europeans are more or less actively interested in the working of the Association the Indian members know very little of football and care less for the general activities of this body. The presence of hardly a dozen of them in the Members' Stand at the Cooperage even on a big day clearly testifies to the truth of this statement. The Indian members of the Committee are, therefore, at the mercy of the Europeans. This is no doubt an intolerable situation which some of the Indian members have been feeling for some time. The Europeans are shrewd enough to sense this in good time. They have now taken the next step to ensure their position and supremacy in the Association for some years to come.

WHY MEMBERSHIP WAS CLOSED

In the year 1942, when the number of European members was falling rapidly, and of the Indians rising steadily, all fresh admissions to the Membership of the Association were stopped. The reason given out for it was that there was a great shortage of wines in the city. Why a sporting organisation—and Provincial ruling body at that—should close its membership, even though temporarily, owing to the liquor scarcity, I could not understand. No other Association had done it. But they have no bar to worry their heads. I then wished—of course I wish it always—that the W.I.F.A. had no bar of its own! Now it seems the wine scarcity has been removed to a certain extent, as I gather from the fact that the doors of the Association have been opened again for new members. Those who want "drinks" at a cheaper price than elsewhere may now apply for membership.

But there is a catch in it. The fees have been suddenly raised—admission fee from Rs. 10 to Rs 25 and annual subscription from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10. One may ask why this has been done in the days of unprecedented prosperity of the Association. Is it wrong to infer that the W.I.F.A. authorities do not want Indians who are interested in football and—not in the bar—to become its members? I have personal experience of the tremendous difficulty in persuading friends to pay down Rs. 15—either they did not care to become members of the W.I.F.A. or the sum was too heavy for them to pay at once. Now they are asked to pay Rs. 35 at a time! How many Indians join this year or in the near future remain to be seen. But the extraordinary manner in which this amended rule has come into force is a great mystery. So far as I know the proposal to raise the fees was never put before any meeting and, therefore, never passed by it! I have asked many members about it. They are as much ignorant about it as myself. Anyway the Committee has the solid backing of their supporters to carry on just as they liked. I should not be at all surprised if one of these days I hear that the Association has passed a rule to appoint the present Committee for life—without of course presenting the proposition to the general body!

What can I do?

HERE IS THE ANSWER

Join the Auxiliary Nursing Service NOW. India's sick and wounded need your sympathy, care and service. Thousands of women have already shown magnificent devotion to duty by volunteering for this essential service. This is vital work that will make you a practical asset on the side of Freedom.

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10,000 CRORE ECONOMIC PLAN X-RAYED

(Continued from page 10)

ished and as household, goods which are in the hands of consumers, wear out, millions of people will have to spend a lot more in replacing them. Prices have been irregular and very high on account of inflation. It is my belief that for a long time, these prices will not come down and if they do come down, it will be only to a very limited extent. Taxes (in which should be included the higher rates of posts, telegraphs and railways) have increased enormously. Not only have foreign companies in India many important concessions in the matter of forests, minerals etc., but their interest is predominant in many trades, in which profits are large.

The import and export trade has gone out of the hands of Indians into the hands of the U.K.C.C., or the commercial corporations of the United States and British Dominions. The people of India have paid ten to twenty times for the use of foreign goods in India during the war, but Indian goods, which were exported, went out at the rate of two to three annas in the rupee! On account of export control, licence, wagon control, shipping control, priority and other restrictions, Indian producer and Indian merchant had to sell off goods at a very low price, instead of realising the high world price, which they could have realised, had these goods been sold freely in the world market.

FALSE OPTIMISM

The payment, which Indians received for their goods, have been made through the issue of new notes. From sterling accumulations, India's foreign debt has been rapaid with interest and, so far as the balance is concerned, the position is that a poor country like India has lent to a rich country like Britain at a nominal rate of interest a sum of five to seven hundred crores of rupees! The authors of the plan say, that these sterling balances will be used in a particular way, but the writer is afraid that when India needs these funds (and these funds are needed to-day in order to cure the disease of inflation), it is a question whether Britain would be able to pay. It is now suggested that Britain does not desire to repay these funds, but there is the apprehension that, even if Britain is willing tc pay, she may not be in a position to pay. People in India entertaining false optimism must not forget, that a country like America, worshipping the Dollar and very resolute in the pursuit of her own interests, had to write off large sums, which she had given to Britain, Germany, France and other parts of Europe during the last war.

FAT GONE FROM THE BODY

All fat is gone from the body of the population of India and dry bones are showing themselves. People are getting thinner. The number of animals is much reduced and it is a question whether rainfall may not be affected on account of indiscriminate cutting of trees all over the country. This deterioration would have to be put right and this should come in the forefront of any plan. This is no small task. To direct industries producing for the war to production of goods for the civil population, is also no easy matter. If the condition of the people has deteriorated so much with inflation of about one thousand crores, it is necessary to think how much deterioration would arise, if a further inflation of three thousand and five hundred crores is made. It is doubtful, whether we should have economic progress and increase of industry after paying this terrible price. The estimates of savin-, which have been given in this plan, appear to be unduly optimistic and exaggerated having regard to the present condition of the people and acute economic distress, through which the country is passing. If big results are to be secured in a short time, much suffering must be undergone and great sacrifices must be made, but it is important to keep in mind that the burdens do not fall on that section of the population, which is suffering much now, and undue advantage is not taken by those classes, who can afford to make sacrifices. While building for the future generation, it is necessary to keep in mind that unnecessary sacrifices are not made of the life of the present population.

The most important thing for humanity is to consider "How we live" and "What is our attitude to other." If one sees life from the footsteps of benevolence (selflessness), life would appear different. When you see life from the platform of human equality, your eyes would see more and clearer. From the point of view of the unity of human life all over the world, the time factor loses its significance. In a very small period, Hitler and Mussolini increased the productiveness of their countries enormously, but, if understand what led to the destruction of their activities, we may avoid a similar mistake here in India.

In the economic progress of India, it is important to cultivate the sense of unity of life generally and, in particular, the reconciliation of apparent Hindu-Muslim differences. Steps should be indicated, by which inter-provincial or other conflicts may not arise and a common aim would be acceptable to all. In every heart in India must be the feeling that we shall first build up together and we shall divide later, if we want to divide.

In the traditional teachings of India it is said that one must strive not merely for the attainment of wealth and desire (Artha and Kama) but one must attain wealth and desire only within the limits of righteousness (Dharma). How bad money brings with itself the equipment for its own destruction is demonstrated to-day, as clear as a cinema film on the wall from the condition of Europe. All the ill-gotten wealth of Europe secured from the five continents during the last four hundred years has been destroyed by Providence in the course of four years.

It is true that, on account of the war, there would be economic upheavals and in such upheaveals, sometime (for a short period) it would appear as if there is much wealth somewhere, but all this is misleading like the mirage. If good wealth is not stationary, it is wrong to hope that money secured from the distress of others could stay and produce good results. Even Wilkie, whose thoughts are formed on Western basis, could have the conception of one world But Indians have the rich heritage of the Upanishads. It is, therefore, deplorable that there should be any amongst the people of India, who can think of, or constitute separate groups amongst mankind or in their own country, and who can, on the appearance of some visible wealth somewhere, conceive of any economic progress out of the war, which has brought nothing but misery to the whole world It is an inevitable law of the spiritual world, that the wealth, which arises out of the sufferings of other human beings, cannot be the instrument for securing happiness or joy.

Calcutta Convocation

EMINENT INDIANS DON'T MAKE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Radhakrishnan Criticises Viceroy's Negative Assurance And Urges Implementing Of Sargeant's Scheme

Addressing the annual convocation of the Calcutta University this morning, Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Vice-Chancellor of the Benares Hindu University, asked for priority for education among schemes of reconstruction now being considered.

He also pleaded for well-planned and vigorous economic expansion and development of public health.

On the Indian political problem, he said: "The world looks upon India as the supreme test of British statesmanship and sincerity of purpose. The best answer to the Nazis is to stand up and perform according to the ideals we profess."

EMINENT INDIANS WON'T MAKE NATIONAL GOVT.

An Indian Government which had the confidence of the people would be able to raise the sums essential for the national effort of educational and industrial expansion, said Sir Sarvapalli.

He continued: "The Viceroy tells us that the present Government of India is mainly an Indian Government." The presence of a number of eminent Indians does not make the Government a national one. Who lays down the policy? Who wields the power? The Viceroy stated that the aim of His Majesty's Government is to see India a united country, enjoying complete and unqualified self-government as a willing partner of the British Commonwealth. But a mere declaration of principle does not right a wrong. The complacency with which the British Government falls back on the disagreements among Indians is a distressing feature.

FAMINE EPISODE

The war had exposed the weakness of our Government, our economic life and our system of education. said Sir Sarvapalli.

"The death due to famine conditions of a million people, eveu if we accept the figures given by the Secretary of State for India in the House of Commons, is not essentially different from or less costly than the death of a million people in any other part of the world. If we realise what this means in terms of human suffering and sorrow, we should be filled with shame and resentment and a burning desire to wipe out of the conditions which make such things possible. A well-planned and vigorous economic expansion, involving the introduction of modern technical and industrial methods of producing goods and services, an all-out development of education and Public Health alone can give relief to a long-suffering people and restore national vitality.

We are not revolutionary by instinct but may become so by necessity.

Revolutionary plans are apt to gather force if the general community feels that serious attempts are not being made to redeem the people from conditions of poverty and squalor."

PRIORITY FOR EDUCATION

Urging that education should have priority among schemes of reconstruction now being considered, Sir Radhakrishnan said that social security, communications, health and sanitation were all important, but education which was concerned with the making of man was the most important. Mr. Sargent gave a comprehensive scheme.

If India was not to lag behind other progressive countries the scheme must be put through.

"It is a pleasure to know that in his address to the Central Legislatures, His Excellency remarked that the "vtial matters of health and education will not be allowed to stand still." But this negative assurance is not enough. Educational expansion is the foundation of all reconstruction and money for it must be found."

BIGGEST UNIVERSITY IN THE WORLD

The Calcutta University was today the biggest in the world in point of numbers and its activities were manifold, said the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr. B. C. Roy, in the course of his address at the Convocation of the University to-day.

A scheme for post-graduate studies in medicine was ready and very soon they hoped to have similar arrangement for the Department of Engineering.

Dr. Roy considered that every educationist must agree with the main findings of the Central Advisory Board of Education in its draft report on post-war educational development in India.

The present educational system, which took no count of the pupil and the environments he grew in, was a misfit, said Dr. Roy.

Dr. Roy, then welcomed the new Chancellor of the University, Mr. R. G. Casey.

CASEY OPTIMISTIC

The Chancellor, the Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey in his address, referred to the Indian Air Force Training Corps classes at the Calcutta University and said: "In this lies a great opportunity for the educated youth of Bengal to make an outstanding place for themselves in the forces, and at the same to fit themselves for careers in what will undoubtedly be the widely expanding business of post-war Civil Aviation."

The past year, the Chancellor added, had been a bad one for Bengal. "Reading a report the other day, I was struck by this sentence: 'All the four horsemen of the Apocalypse war, famine, pestilence and death hae ridden hard over the plains of Bengal.' Famine pestilence and death have ridden—and we must and will stop them from riding again. The fourth horseman war, has been held in check by the determination and valour of our fighting forces among which those of India have played so notable a part.

"As the prospect of victory becomes increasingly brighter and nearer and simultaneously as our administrative resources directed against scarcity and disease become increasingly effective, I feel that we may reasonably and confidently look forward to our final and speedy release from the shadows which have darkened the last year."—A. P.

Urdu National Binding Force

LONDON, March 3.

The Hindusthani Association first started by Sir Abdul Qadir held a meeting here when several Hindu and Muslim speakers recited Chakbast's and Iqbal's poems proving that Urdu was a national binding factor in Indian polity. Dr. Kaul narrated the popular conception of philosophy and its placement in Hindu philosophy which corresponded with Muslim philosophy.—Orient Press.

Islamic Architecture

LONDON, March 3.

Speaking before the Muslim Society of Great Britain on "Mosque Plan Development" Prof. Corfiato narrated the evolution of Islamic architecture which took varying shapes according to the country in which it flourished at the same time keeping the original conception intact.—Orient Press.

3 ACCUSED APPEAL TO HIGH COURT

KARACHI March 4: Kassim Kamal and Wali Mohamad, three of the accused in the Allahbux murder case who have been sentenced to death by the Special Tribunal have filed appeals in the High Court.—A P.

Bhutto In Poona

(From A Correspondent).

POONA, March 4.

Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto, member, Bombay and Sind Public Service Commission, arrived here today for eew days' change to recoup his health after his recent long illness. He is staying here as the guest of Mr, Ahmed E H Jaffer.

CITY MARKETS

Bombay, March 4.

BULLION: Yesterday London Gold was unchanged at £8-8-0. Dollar Sterling Cross Rate was 4.02-1/2 to 4.03-1/2 at London and 4.03 at New York. London Spot and Forward Silver quotations were unchanged at 23-1/2d and New York Spot Silver was quoted at 44-3/4 cents. The local market was quietly steady with a restricted business. Gold was steady with Spot quotation Rs. 70-14-6 and Forward business was done at Rs. 70-12. Forward Silved was quoted at Rs. 123-5 and Ready Silver business was reported at Rs. 124-12. Sovereigns were quoted at Rs. 49.

Later on there was heavy unloading and both Gold and Silver declined. Rady Silver Rs. 124-6, Forward Rs. 122-10, Ready Gold Rs. 70-13-6, Forward Gold Rs. 70-11-6.

COTTON: The local Cotton Market declined to-day but later prices recovered on short covering. Even after a dorp of Rs. 30 per candy, the general sentiment remains bearish although some technical reaction is likely. May delivery opened at Rs. 449 and declined to Rs. 446 under renewed selling. Later on the market steadied under short covering and May quotation rallied to Rs. 448-8. Prices again ruled quiet at Rs. 447-4. It is expected that shorts would be inclined to cover sales around Rs. 440 level.

There was extensive selling and prices further collapsed with March quoted at Rs. 438 and May Rs. 443. The market closed week at 4 p.m. as under:

I C C March Rs. 437, I C C May Rs. 442-8, I C C July Rs. 446-8.

COTTON ARRIVALS: Barsi 180, Berar 490, Central Provinces 201, Dholera 615, N.-W. Provinces 194, Sind-Punjab 1,609, Broach 4,286, Total 7,575.

READY COTTON QUOTATIONS.

Khandesh Jarilla Old 290/320, New 380/410, Berar Jarilla Old 330/340, New 420/440, 280 F. Jarilla Old 500/550, New 620/630, N. T. Jarilla Old 470/480, New 567/575, 289 F. Saw-ginned Old 530/575, New 685/695.

INDIAN SAOCK EXCHANGE.

Tata Ordinary 411, Tata Deferred 2,100, Indian Iron 36-12, Steel Corpn. of Bengal 27-8, Bombay Dyeing 2,057-8, Central India 423-12, Century 995, Gokak 352-8, Kohinoor 691-4, Simplex 260, Andhra Valley 1,830, Tata Hydro 198-2, Tata Power 1,857-8, Associated Cement 218, Belapur 236-14, Bombay Burma (Old) 407-8.

LATEST COMMERCIAL

COTTON (May.)

New York, March 4.

Previous Closing	20.25
Today's Opening	20.32
Difference	+07
Today's Closing	20.35
Difference	+10

NEW YORK COTTON

New York, March 3.

March 20.67—16, May 20.25—15, July 19.62—19, October 19.15—19, December 18.96—20, January 18.89—20, May highest 20.42+02 (10-10 a.m.), lowest 20.24—16 (2-52 p.m.) Middling Spot 21.19—19.

NEW ORLEANS COTTON

New York, March 3.

March 20.84—13 May 20.42—14, July 19.82—14, October 19.20—18, December 19.02—16, January 18.93—16, Middling Spot 20.44—15.

NEW YORK COTTON, NOON CALL

New York, March 3.

March 20.82 May 20.37, July 19.78.

COTTON PARITY: Indian Cotton May Contract is below New York May 298 cent points at Exchange Rate 331.

HIGH AND LOW COTTON PRICES

Bombay March 3.

I C C March highest 456, lowest 448-3/4, closing 448-3/4, I C C May highest 456 lowest 448-1/4, closing 448-1/2, I C C July highest 459-1/2, lowest 451, closing 451-3/4.

Coal Shortage Threatens Ahmedabad Mills Again

(From Our Correspondent)

AHMEDABAD, March 4.

Ahmedabad mills are again threatened with serious coal crisis. Three mills have put up notices of closing night-shifts within a fortnight.

U. S. Raids On Kuriles

WASHINGTON, March 3.

United States Navy bombers dropped bombs on Thursday on Paramushiru and Shimushu in Kurile Islands, says a "communique" from the Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific, Admiral Chester Nimitz.

The other targets attacked by Army and Navy bombers on Wednesday were three Japanese-held bases in the eastern Marshalls where 28 tons of bombs were dropped, and Ponape. Paramushiru is an important Japanese naval and air base some 1,200 miles from Tokio. It is the most northerly of the Kuriles which lie north of Japan.—Reuter.

STOP PRESS

U. S. AND ARGENTINA

WASHINGTON, March 4: United States relations with Argentina have been suspended, it is officially announced. The Assistant Secretary of State, E. Stettinius, said at a press conference that the American Ambassador to Argentina had been instructed not to carry on official diplomatic relations with the new regime.—Reuter.

Gloomy Future of Indian Dance—Modern Nritya in true colours—Insidious growth of techniqueless dance—Songs and dances in dance-drama—Collegians' growing interest in music—Cultural relations between China and India.

Whither classical dance of India? Such a question will sound ridiculous and even absurd in the age of "renaissance", but it ought to be raised by everyone who is anxious about the future of Indian arts. The classical dance is likely to lose more than what it would gain by leaving the protecting wings of its custodians—the traditional exponents. It is undergoing a sort of metamorphosis which is a menace to its very soul. The voice of its few educated devotees who are punctiliously following in the footsteps of the traditional masters is being drowned in the din and buzz of the contemporary stage which is seized by the fast multiplying race of the modernists and half-baked amateurs.

Nritya—Then And Now

The dancers, who have grasped the truth that the art of codified and symbolic "Abhinaya" is the alpha and omega of the classical dance and that the Nritta and Nritya are distinct generic types, will not be many. The vocal, physical and emotional "Abhinayas" are the essentials of the Nritya—the interpretational dance. Precisely stated the Nritya is a synthesis of a song, instrumental music and symbolic Abhinayas. In the current age it has lost its tongue and has been reduced to the stage of a dumb exhibition. The modern Nritya has no background of a song—a poetic composition in a melodic framework. It resorts to instrumental music frequently selected at random merely as a mechanical accompaniment.

Emotions and concrete objects are, according to the classical technique, to be interpreted in the idioms of the symbolic gesture—language which is a unique achievement of India; but the "progressivists—the exponents of the dance-modern", who love short-cuts and sweeping victories, have begun to indulge in significant pantomimic gestures and to affect emotional expressions with rigid and immobile faces and rivetted eyes. What Nritya now promises to retain, if it is not rescued from their clutches, will be the semblance of the movements suggestive of some classical technique and in spite of it will continue, as it is doing to-day, to claim blatantly to interpret anything and everything under "and also above" the sun.

Side by side with the dumb and pantomimic Nritya is insidiously developing a dance-form which is nondescript. It is techniqueless and, therefore a travesty of the classical art. The new dance-form appears to be the equivalent of the 'modern dance" of the West which rejects prescribed and limited techniques of movements and it also appears to be the counterpart of the "light music" which is gaining undeserved popularity. It is styled as Indian, because it is danced by the Indians to the accompaniment of the unsystematic Indian music. It will soon parade on the stage under the veneer of the classical dance and will probably jostle out the true art from the field as it does not subject the students to rigid discipline and a lengthy course of training.

A few educated traditionalists will be vociferous in their disapprobation of the current trends of dance, and the conscientious professionals will be indignantly resentful of their growth, but will be reticent on account of the fear of losing livelihood. But, the new techniqueless dance-form has set its feet—sometimes divested of their bells—firmly on the stage and is on its way to progress. It has eliminated the distinctions of the Nritta and Nritya and has been, therefore, hailed as a god-send by the stage-struck and stardom-loving amateurs. The classical dance is confronted by an adversary that is not its equal in strength but is formidable on account of its large following.

Vagaries Of Dance-Drama

Dance-drama, which has emerged in recent years, as a form of stage-entertainment, cannot be interpreted as otherwise than the representation of a dramatic composition through the medium of dance. The fact that dance, in that case, should be the Nritya-type, cannot be gainsaid. Now look at the vagaries of the dance-drama on the contemporary stage. Songs are poured out by the chorus in profusion, but the ensemble of the dances, which are intended to convey their sense, consists of unrelated head-wagging, stereotyped and significant hand-gestures, rigid faces and rivetted eyes and the movements which conform to no technique. Songs are not correlated to dances. They sound like shanties sung by sailors whilst at work. One fails to understand what purpose is served by the songs and what sense is conveyed by the dances which are poor in their interpretational values.

The system of the symbolic "Abhinaya" which is the 'sine qua non' of dance, has a limited scope in the classical dramatic technique. The artistes of Madame Menaka's Nrityalayam went a step further in "Chitra" produced during the Tagore week and introduced a commendable innovation in the dramatic technique by making the symbolic gesture-language the medium of interpretation of the dialogues intended for them. Their expressions and gestures were in a marked and refreshing contrast to the stereotyped and direct gestures and movements of the dances in the current form of the dance-drama. Dances, if inserted in dramatic situations, should not be empirical. The technique and types must be there, but their selection should be determined by the predominant sentiments of the given situations.

"The technique of Hindu Natya far from being limited in expression, as some people say—is capable of depicting with startling vividness and clarity all the phases of the well-known ballet," declared La Meri in connection with the production by her recently, of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" in the Bharat Natya technique in New York. The reviewer of the "Dance News" appreciated her venture as "an experiment well worth the effort and certainly most interesting to observe". Elimination of the songs as a background of the ballet should be taken for granted and no information is to hand as regards the standards of music. The fact, however, remains that the symbolic gesture-language, which is found by the modernists and the new dance authorities—the amateurs—as incapable of interpreting dramas and the realities of the contemporary life, was found by La Meri as capable of interpreting "Swan Lake"—a western ballet.

Grand Conspiracy

The role of the instrumental music in dance which is peculiar to every classical technique seems to be beyond comprehension of the new generation of the dancers. Tala and melody are indispensable to dancing. The cardinal principle of Indian dance should be cited as "dance depends upon tala and rhythm". The Indian string instruments, which are designed to reproduce the melodies with the finer shades of their notes, cannot be dismissed from any dance which is labelled as Indian. How far has the instrumental music now swerved from the basic principles of Indian dance will be apparent from the rendering of the so-called modern Indian dances to the accompaniment of unsystematic instrumental music and from the introduction of western instruments and sound effects after the fashion of the screen.

The Architectural art of India has been swept off its feet by the influx of the western styles especially the modern architecture of the "Marine Drive Brand". Sculpture too has very nearly ceased to be a living art. Music has stood its ground firmly against the odds, because its traditional exponents are unlike their educated rivals, not susceptible to the temptation of conversion and are still counted as authorities; but the classical dance will, as it appears from its current trends, probably go the way of architecture and sculpture. Unessential theatrical effects and costumes, pantomimic gestures, techniqueless and dumb dances and the olla podrida of the instrumental music have formed a grand conspiracy to kill this unique and beautiful art. Opportune will, therefore, be the inquiry "whither classical dance of India?"

Collegians And Music

Realisation of music as a cultural asset by the collegians of Bombay is reflected in the formation of the St. Xavier's College Music Society and in the organisation under its auspices of the Inter-Collegiate Music Competition which is likely to stay on as an annual feature of the academic life of Bombay. If the student world takes to music seriously and organises itself on proper lines, it will force the gates of the Rajabai Tower open to music which is waiting for academic sanction since February 1939. An Inter-Collegiate Music Association of a representative character should be the first step towards systematic organisation. Such an association will offer opportunities to students to listen to the classical music of the well-known musicians and will also enable them to arrange lectures and discussions and demonstrations of the various aspects of music.

Music-competitions of the collegians should share the popularity of the Inter-collegiate matches and tournaments. The present system needs a few immediate improvements. The first among them is that the standard of music should be exclusively classical. As a matter of fact the music of the students, who undergo hard training in order to shoulder the heavy responsibilities and to face hard tasks in life, ought to be heavy—classical and not light. It is only the classical music which is capable of cultivating the musical sense and of training the voice for singing.

Then entries should be subjected to selection with a view to sifting out better material. The difficulties are no doubt there, but they can be overcome. A few accredited musicians should be requested to form a panel, and every intending entrant should be asked to submit his or her item to any one of them and to get a certificate from him if the item is approved. The entries, which are thus accompanied by certificates should be admitted to the competition. The judges may or may not be the members of the Selection Committee.

Cultural Intercourse

In his appeal for help to the Sino-Indian Society which appeared in the "Bombay Chronicle" of February 7, Professor Y. F. Chu, Secretary-General of the Society, has outlined its programme, which includes, among other items, exchange of scholars and students and the establishment, in China and India, of museums of Sino-Indian culture. The renewal of the cultural intercourse between the two countries is a welcome proposition, but it should be undertaken with care and should be extended to the sphere of art, India had radiated her cultural influences through art far beyond her geographical frontiers. Her art had, thus, functioned as a great link between herself and other countries.

There should be exchange of scholars as well as artists—painters, musicians and dancers, but caution should be exercised in the selection of the latter. China or any other country should be acquainted with art which is truly and typically Indian. And the artists, who have upheld the indigenous traditions, and preserved the integrity and individuality of Indian arts, will be found in a larger number from the camp of the traditional exponents. The educational qualifications or disqualifications should not outweigh the standards of arts. Or, in other words, the educated artists, who are known for their allegiance to the creed of eclecticism, should not be selected to represent—to misrepresent—Indian arts to any country. Will art be included in the programmes of cultural intercourse?

My dear Sisters & Brothers,

Who was not moved to hear the sad news of the passing away of Kasturba—the beloved wife of our most revered Mahatma Gandhi, and the beloved mother of the whole Indian nation? People say I am stone-hearted, and nobody's death ever affects me: But when the sudden news about "Ba", as she was affectionately called by everyone, reached here on that fateful night of February 22, 'you' should have seen my face!—A sister actually remarked, where had my usual smile gone?

* * *

Writing on Ba naturally reminds me of my personal associations with her. The last time I saw her was when Mahatmaji was on twenty-one days' fast in the Aga Khan Palace Prison at Poona. Resting her wrinkled face on her feeble hands—she sat there with a vacant look—patting her "sons" on their backs with her blessings as they bowed down before her, and asking for their blessings—You know, of course, which blessings. And was she not truly blessed?—For she has indeed died the death of a "Sati", that she had been wishing and praying for. What a devotion was there in her weak eyes—Yet how defiant they were: She had surpassed hundreds of Joans of Arc!

Then I remember quite distinctly: It was during the Salt Satyagraha at Dharasana. Batches after batches of volunteers were beaten by the Police and not allowed to reach the Salt Works. The more a volunteer was beaten the more lucky he considered himself. I was one of those fortunate persons who had to lie as indoor patients at the Bulsar Hospital. There Ba came, visiting every volunteer individually, speaking to every volunteer personally. "You are suffering for your country", she cheered us, "Your voice will surely be heard by God." And the light on her face outshone thousands of Florence Nightingales!

Now comes running to my memory the most loving incident which I can never forget. I was at Karachi and Ba had come to visit the place along with Bapuji. I knew it was not possible to bring Mahatmaji to the Balkan-ji-Bari—he was so very busy—So Ba was requested, and she readily agreed to be with the children: How happy and honoured we felt. I recall, then, as we were arranging to photograph her with the group, we had to request her a number of times to change her place—and every time she did so ungrudgingly, smilingly. We were almost tired of troubling her, but not she: What a wonderful patience she had!

* * *

Ba was a real Queen of queens. Very unassuming, yet how dignified. Meek and mild, yet what a valiant fighter. If one could have a peep

BELOVED BA

within her heart, perhaps it was full of patches of sufferings—yet her bold face was a mirror of those sacrifices she had willingly made: One understood she could bear greater sufferings still, and any amount of them. She was the embodiment of the finest and noblest in Indian womanhood; She represented the best in an Indian girl, in an Indian wife and in an Indian mother.

Whenever we talked about the great personalities of India, I would say to my friends, a greater personage than Ba I have not yet seen. Of course, we would agree that Mahatma Gandhi is the greatest man of India, that Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru are great in their own way..... But I think some of them used to laugh at me shyly for my deep feelings about Ba: India has realised her worth now and will further realise it as time passes.....

The pen now refuses to stop—and it seems I could write volumes to-day on Ba—Probably you and everyone else as well could do so—for she was Mother to all—A loving mother! But, then, realising the limit of this "Corner", may I end it with the news that the children of Balkan-ji-Bari and boys and girls throughout India offered prayers for Ba on last Sunday.

Alas! Ba died while she was in detention—But she has already secured her Freedom!

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The LAST PAGE

Conducted by CHRONICLER

The official hush-hush over the whereabouts of the members of the Congress Working Committee at last has been broken—after exactly 18 months!

In reply to a question asked by Sardar Mangal Singh in the Assembly, the Home Member said that "members of the Working Committee are detained in Ahmednagar."

This is a historic statement, for it officially lifts for the first time the curtain of mystery that has been deliberately kept hanging to keep the national leaders' place of detention a secret. And I am not yet sure that the Home Member did not reveal the secret in a moment of absent-mindedness!

Not that it ever was really a secret. I knew it, you knew it, every one knew it. But you were not supposed to know it. And, of course, you were not supposed to publish it.

Strangely enough, it was an American paper, the "Time" newsmagazine, that published a cabled report that the Congress leaders were detained in Ahmednagar fort, along with a detailed description of the place of detention. But thereby bangs a tale which, thanks to the Home Member, can be told now in full and I have pleasure in telling it, for I played a little part in it myself.

★

A Train Leaves For Nowhere!

Let's go back to that fateful night of August 8-9, 1942.

Journalists have already recorded at length the exciting atmosphere that prevailed that night in newspaper offices as, melodramatically, it was discovered that the telephone lines had gone "dead" all over Bombay.

A different scene, but equally animated, was being enacted simultaneously at the Victoria Terminus Station. The last train was gone, the station building was practically deserted except for a few sleepy-eyed officials tabulating the day's accounts after closing the booking-windows.

On one of the platforms, however, a train was being got ready. A special train! Only a few bogeys and an engine—and a dining Car! But no one knew—not even the driver or the guard—the destination of the train, when it would leave, who would travel by it! The dining car waiters were as puzzled by the hush-hush atmosphere of the goings-on as railway officials.

"Who is going by this special?", asked one of the railway officials, "And when is it leaving?"

"I don't know, Sir", replied the waiter, "but we have been asked to keep breakfast ready for about 20 persons."

"Must be military officers", commented the railway official, starting to go away. He was sleepy and tired.

"May be", philosophically observed the waiter, "but I wonder why the military officers should require vegetarian meals."

And next morning as the railway official got up and learnt of the Congress leaders' arrests, he knew how he had missed a "scoop" in the night!

When the train actually steamed out at 7-30 a.m., no one was allowed to enter the platform, not even the station building. By then word had got round, of course, that the members of the Working Committee had been arrested. A small crowd that had collected even at that early misty hour in front of the Bori Bunder station, saw a few cars with police escorts driving in. There was a whistle, a rattle, and the train pulled out of the station—for "an unspecified destination"! That is how the newspapers and news agencies reported it—or, rather, were allowed to report it! For, within a few hours, by the exercise of their amazing journalistic sixth sense, most of the reporters knew the leaders were being taken to Ahmednagar. But they were not allowed to say it.

★

Bill Fisher Gets Going!

Meanwhile, in a flat on Pedder Road, Bill Fisher of "Time", and "Life" slept soundly and peacefully, having worked till late at night on a long "story" about the A. I. C. C. meeting that he had cabled to New York via his London office. It was nearly ten when the telephone in his flat started working again and he got a ring from me. Poor Bill! He almost collapsed as he learnt that while he had been sleeping, curtain had been rung down on the most exciting political drama in the history of modern India.

"You are a good friend", he growled at me, "letting me sleep while all this has been happening. In heaven's name, why didn't you ring me earlier?"

I told him the telephone lines had been dead for hours and he appreciated the situation.

Within an hour, Bill Fisher was on the scent—like the trained news-hound that he is. He drove down to our office, after sending a brief cable giving the bare facts of the arrests.

"But tell me", he asked, "where they have been taken?"

I told him our information was that they had been taken to Ahmednagar but that we could not divulge the news, as all the reports about the arrests had to pass the censors. He said he would take a chance with the cable censors.

I do not know how it happened but Bill Fisher's cable about the Congress leaders having been taken to Ahmednagar and the detailed description and history of the Ahmednagar Fort did pass the censor. Later, other foreign correspondents tried to send out the same news but, meanwhile, the censors had got wise and clamped down on the Ahmednagar part of their 'stories.'

And thus it came to be that Bill Fisher scooped over all his rivals and a million readers of "Time" in America read all about the Ahmednagar Fort in the next issue of the famous newsmagazine—the same issue which bore Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's portrait on the cover. The copies of this issue, however, were not allowed to reach the "Time" subscribers in India!

★

History Will Fill The Blanks

"The Times of India Directory of Bombay City and Presidency" (1936 edition) devotes only five lines to the town of Ahmednagar:

"Ahmednagar, the headquarters of the District, figured prominently in the Duke of Wellington's Indian campaigns. The town itself is unattractive, but there is a fine fort, half a mile to the East of the City. Ahmednagar is a station on the Dhond-Manmad line of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. There is a good travellers' bungalow."

This brief description, however, leaves out several interesting historical facts about Ahmednagar and the Ahmednagar fort. Ahmednagar was the seat of one of the rulers of the powerful Bahmini dynasty which ruled over the Deccan. The fort which is a relic of those days, it is said, was later used as a concentration camp for the prisoners of the Boer War. During the last war the German prisoners were interned there. Not long ago it is said to have been used to house the Italian prisoners of war who were brought to India after the fall of Eritrea and Tripoli

A future historian of India might devote considerably more than five lines to sum up the historical significance of Ahmednagar. One visualizes some such paragraph in the "The Directory of Bombay City And Presidency" (1956 edition):—

AHMEDNAGAR—capital of the District of that name in the Bombay Deccan, has figured prominently in Indian history. It was the seat of the Bahmini kings and, during the expansionist phase of British imperialism in India, it was conquered by the Duke of Wellington in one of his series of campaigns. Half a mile from the town is a fine fort which was supposed to be impregnable when constructed. During the British rule this fort was used to accommodate a series of different inds of war prisoners, the most famous of whom were the leaders of the Nationalist movement including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who were all arrested in Bombay on August 9, 1942, and brought to Ahmednagar. Their presence in Ahmednagar was kept a secret for 18 months till the Home Member of the then British Government announced the fact in the Legislative Assembly. They were kept detained in Ahmednagar for—years till their release on——following a settlement of the Indo-British political deadlock."

History will fill the blanks!

★

Gold Rush For Journalists

Whatever else the present war has or has not achieved, it has certainly opened the gates of heaven ("for the duration") to Indian journalists and writers. At no other time was the humble writer so much in demand as to-day and the emoluments dangled before him every day are enough to make the mouth of even veteran editors water with delightful anticipation.

In New Delhi and Simla there is an army of ex-reporters, ex-journalists, ex-sub editors, even ex-poets, who are being paid high salaries to grease the propaganda machinery of the Government. They are now Information Officers, Publicity Officers, Counter-propaganda experts, Organisers of War Propaganda Through Songs, and the various sub-species of Subs, Assistants, Joints and Extras. It is like the Gold Rush of America's Wild West and New Delhi is the El Dorado that every ambitious cub reporter wants to reach. For many a cub-reporter getting fifty rupees (or even less) a month, many an unpaid apprentice, many a hanger-on of the newspaper offices, many a writer of letters to the editor, is to-day installed in some air-conditioned office on 700 or 800 rupees a month!

Bliss it was in that dawn (of war profiteering) to be alive
But to be a journalist was very heaven!

★

Twentynine Tempting Jobs

I am provoked to write in this strain by seeing a couple of advertisements that recently appeared in the papers.

Here is one of them:—

> Applications are invited for one post of Editor at Rs. 700 p.m. in the scale of pay of Rs. 700—50—1000 in the Counter-Propaganda Directorate, Department of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. Simla. The post is sanctioned for six months in the first instance but is likely to continue for the duration of war.

Then there is the other one on behalf of the A.I.R. which dangles so many jobs before the journalistic eyes that one fears that soon the newspaper offices will be deserted.

All told there are 28 posts—one News Reporter (not views reporter?), one Assistant News Reporter, one Administrative Officer, five News Editors, twelve Assistant News Editors ("to assist the News Editor", it is clearly stated lest you think they are required to sweep the floor!), one Talks Officer, three Assistant Talks Officers, two "Journalists" (what are all the others?), one "Monitoring Officer", three Assistant Monitoring Officers (you have guessed it right—"to assist the Monitoring Officer!") and one Reference Officer.

The salaries offered range from the paltry 300 per month offered to "Assistant News Reporters" and "Assistant Monitoring Officers" to Rs. 900 to 1,200 offered to the "Special Representatives" for A.I.R., to provide A.I.R. with special news stories, observer's reports, eye-witnesses assounts, etc.

All are "for the duration jobs", all are definitely related to the tasks of war propaganda.

Now, the average reporter in an Indian newspaper office gets between 75 and 300 rupees, an average sub-editor between 100 and 300 rupees, an average News Editor gets between 300 and 600 rupees, an average Special Correspondent makes between 300 and 600 rupees. Considering the comparatively staggering salaries offered by the Government, one should expect that every single journalist in India would be hurrying to catch a train for New Delhi, and that soon the Government and the A.I.R. offices would be entirely staffed by the best brains of Indian journalism.

But the best brains of Indian journalism seldom—if ever—apply for these jobs! New Delhi is full of second-raters and third-raters, the upstarts, the hangers-on, the pseudo-journalists, the opportunist poets. So-called "journalists" are getting astronomical salaries in New Delhi who will not be given (and in the past have not been given) even a sub-editor's job in a decent newspaper office.

And yet another aspect of the situation: These people are supposed to be engaged principally to write, speak and broadcast against Fascism and in favour of the democratic cause. And yet how many of them would be eligible for these jobs if one more provision was added to the rules of employment: "State if you are an anti-Fascist. Attach copies of anti-Fascist articles you might have written before 1939 in support of your statement."

★

The Reason Why

The truth of the matter is that most of the New Delhi propagandists are not only mediocre in their abilities but also less than lukewarm in their anti-Fascist convictions. They would have just as willingly applied for the high-salaried jobs if the British Government had gone to war against the Soviet Union instead of Germany!

Why then, it may be asked. don't the first class brains—poets like Harindranath Chattopadhayaya, *cartoonists like Shankar, columnists like "Magnus" of "Hindustan Times" to give only a few examples—enlist in this army of* pen-armed *crusaders for world* freedom? In Russia, in China, even in America and Britain front-rank writers, poets, novelists journalists and artists are working (without the temptation of big salaries, sometimes without any salaries!) for their Governments as war correspondents army observers, propagandists, radio commentators. Why are their Indian counter-parts apathetic?

★

A True Story

I will not give an answer but I will tell a story—a true story—and leave the readers—and the Government Bosses who happen to read these lines—to draw the moral from it.

It was at the time of the Cripps negotiations when at one moment the optimists had reason to feel that a settlement was in sight and that soon India would be free and equal participant in the world-wide anti-Fascist front.

A number of young men, all friends, were so moved by their anti-Fascist zeal that they wrote a joint letter to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (who, they expected, would be charged with the task of mobilising the country against Fascist aggression), offering their services to work in any capacity—to write, to bear arms, to organise the guerillas, to tour the country for war propaganda, to work in canteens. They were prepared to do the meanest job allotted to them if it helped in mobilising the country against Fascism. They did not want any fancy salaries, they were prepared to work free or on a bare living wage. Every one of them was known to be fairly proficient, if not distinguished in his own work, none of them was unemployed, and every one of them was known as a confirmed anti-Fascist of long standing.

That letter was never despatched—for the Cripps negotiations broke down and the hopes of a National Government to organise national defence were dashed to the ground.

The person to whom that letter was addressed is in jail. Some of those who signed that letter are in jail.

And one of them, in a mood of bitter irony tries to salve his frustrated anti-Fascist conscience by writing this anti-Fascist page.

No, thanks, the "Chronicler" is *not* applying for one of these luscious jobs—even though he is catching a train for New Delhi!

LAMB OF LONDON

By AUGUSTUS MUIR

Charles Lamb was born in February, 1775, and during most of his life he lived in the centre of London. Even after he had retired and moved out into the country, his heart was still in London town, and in that quick bright imagination of his he wandered through its streets and alleys, fingering the folios at a bookseller's door, looking wistfully at the folk hurrying by, listening to the sweet rumble of city traffic. And in the delightful "Essays of Elia" for which he is best known, there seems always to be the echo of footsteps on the pavement outside the window or the splash of a fountain playing in a London courtyard.

In these essays, the first thing that strikes a reader who comes to them with a fresh eye is their whimsical humour. Yet a glance at the story of Lamb's life suggests that he must have been a man who was haunted by sadness. After his schooldays at Christ's Hospital he became a clerk in a city office, and tragedy was soon at his door. He came home one day from his desk to find that his sister Mary, in a fit of insanity, had killed their mother.

Home Life

Charles undertook to make himself responsible for Mary during the remainder of her life; and this he faithfully carried out until his own death nearly 40 years later. During the periods when her mind was unclouded which sometimes lasted as long as a year, they were close companions. Being a woman of great intelligence, she entered fully into his literary work and recreations and collaborated with him in their "Tales from Shakespeare", which they wrote to introduce the great dramatist to young readers.

Thus in their home life they were enabled to enjoy together those things in which they delighted; books and friends and the quiet pleasures to be found in London by those who love the place and the people who dwell within its overwidening boundary. Whatever sadness there must have been in their lives, there was a good deal of happiness. Many a cheerful account of the parties given by Charles Lamb can be read in the letters of his friends. These convivial evenings in the candlelight were notable for laughter and high spirits, and for keen and scholarly criticism of their favourite authors.

The "Gentle Elia"

Among Lamb's friends were some of the most famous poets of the day: Wordsworth and Coleridge and Southey. William Hazlitt, that great essayist and critic, was another man who enjoyed Lamb's hospitality; so also did Leigh Hunt and the artist Haydon. Lamb himself has often been referred to as the "gentle Elia" but his friends have attested to the way in which his words could bite when his indignation was roused over some piece of unfairness or cruelty.

It has been said that there is no such thing as a "typical" cockney. But certain characteristics are to be noted in the Londoner, and many of them can be found in Charles Lamb. He was, above all, a companionable man—indeed some people criticised him by saying that he was too companionable and welcomed profligates into his house. Thomas de Quincey took up this challenge: the truth, he said, was that Lamb was always ready to stretch out a helping hand to anyone, and if a man had suffered injustice or persecution, then without further question he was welcomed at Lamb's fireside. Another trait is the laughter that comes readily to a Londoner's lips; quick-witted he is eager to join in the other man's joke; his high spirits seldom fail him, even in adversity

A Good "Mixer"

Charles Lamb knew the meaning of suffering; and this enriched his humour and gave it a tender sympathy which so often finds its expression in the laughter that is close to tears. And linked with this is a Londoner's gusto in the appreciation of good things, no matter how simple they may be. It was Hazlitt who said about Lamb. "His worst fault is an over-eagerness of enthusiasm."

Charles Lamb

And he liked gusto in others; his quick brown eyes would light up, and his face (in repose it was of a rather melancholy cast) would be suffused with good humour at the sight of another man's pleasure.

Charles Lamb was a good "mixer". His essays are full of a deep understanding of those whose way of life was very different from his own. This has always been one of the most notable characteristics of the Londoner, and no doubt it goes a long way to explain why travellers from other lands probably feel more at home in London than in any other foreign city in the world. It is the Londoner's pleasure to make new contacts, new friends; and Lamb delighted to go out of his way to lend a helping hand to a stranger and to set him on his path, chuckling over the salty flavour of some spontaneous jest.

Delightful Letter-Writer

There are a number of good biographies of Charles Lamb; but one's most intimate contact with the essential spirit of the man can be found in his "Essays of Elia" and in his collected "Letters" to his friends. Indeed, he was one of the most delightful letter-writers in all literature. And it should not be forgotten that as literary critic he was in the front rank. In the words of Professor George Gordon of Oxford, he was "one of the first leaders in that rejuvenation of Shakespearean and Jacobean study for which his age is still remembered and which is working still." But to most people Charles Lamb was an essayist whose eye was quick to note the whole pattern of the everyday life he saw around him; and above all he is the prose laureate of the London streets. "Oh, her lamps at night" he once wrote. "The innumerable tradesmen and customers, coaches, wagons, play-houses; the impossibility of being dull in Fleet Street the crowds, the very dirt and mud, the print-shops, the old booksellers, coffee-houses, the pantomimes—all these things work themselves into my mind and feed me....I often shed tears in the motley Strand from fullness of joy at so much life."

The London of Charles Lamb has long passed away; and so has some of the London that one associated with the days before the Luftwaffe dropped fire and steel upon the metropolis. But the Londoner himself has not greatly changed: his heart is much the same as in the time when Charles Lamb took pleasure in wandering through those streets—moved to tears in the fullness of his joy.

THE SALUTE

By N. DEDKOV

The order of the Commander-in-Chief of the Leningrad front, broadcast on January 27th, proclaiming the lifting of the siege of the heroic city of Leningrad as complete, was the greatest expression of praise for the hundreds of thousands of Leningraders for their courage and stubbornness. Where were people from the city at the front? In streets, squares, on the embankment of the Neva. Everybody seemed to be in a hurry, excited and happy.

Then thundered the first volley of salute.

Thousands of coloured rockets fell from the sky like rain drops. Blue and red beams of searchlights crossed over the palaces. For the first time for many months the city was illumined so brightly, just like on a fine sunny day. Bright light penetrated into every street and every turning. It was all so unusual and so baautiful. The Leningraders were as happy as they could be.

For twenty-eight months was the Nevsky Street silent, grim and alert. Now it was alive with jubilant people. Women embracad; many had tears in their eyes.

That hour the whole country rejoiced together with the people of Lenin's city. The news brought happiness to thousands of Leningraders working at factories in the Urals as well as to children evacuated into Siberia in the grim winter of 1941-1942.

In expectation of this hour, the Leningrad workers laboured in cold shops and factories in the January days of 1942. It was ,for this sake that the Leningrad women—mothers, wives and sisters of fighting men—toiled so devotedly at factories, in forests and on peatfields.

The fascist barbarians thought that they could break the Leningrad people with incessant raids and bombardments. Nothing going! The city held its ground and won. The Leningraders were united and steeled for struggle by the Leningrad Bolsheviks with Andrei Zhdanov at their head. The Leningraders were not alone: they had the whole country with them. Joseph Stalin was with them. They believed and waited—the hour would arrive and the enemy would feel the full power of the Red Army's blows near Leningrad. The hour has come. Leningrad heard the roar of guns of fortresses, the fire of ships of the Baltic fleet and volleys of batteries and artillery—all of which merge into one ear-splitting din.

The defence which the German engineers had erected in the past two years, the defences which the German generals considered invincible, the line which Hitler had ordered to hold at all costs, was broken.

The Soviet warriors who stormed German blockhouses, forced rivers and routed crack German divisions knew well what the Leningrad people had suffered. The enemy attempted to stifle the city with hunger, air-raids and bombardments; he killed women and children; deported the inhabitants of the Leningrad region for slave work. Armymen are displaying exemplary courage every hour and every minute of the day. Who has not heard the names of Anatoly Kushkov, Alexander Tipanov, Mikhail and Kuznetsov and the pilot Sharonov and thousands of others who have covered themselves with glory?

When the echo of the last volley died down and silence once again reigned on the Neva, Vasilyeva a woman worker in the factory of Skoronhod, walked up to the microphone of the Leningrad radio station and said. "Dear brothers, fathers and dear soldiers! I address these hearty greetings and words of gratitude to you in the name of the Leningrad people To-day's salute thundered in honour of your great deed. It was your victory over the Hitlerite beast which Leningrad celebrated. Our city may now breathe freely. Need I recall what the Leningraders suffered in the past twenty-eight months? Need I say that during the whole of that period we never once doubted that you would win? In the great deeds of the Leningrad front we see the fruits of our own efforts. It was not an explosion of enemy shells but a salute that we heard to-day. Our streets were bright and festive. It is you, dear soldiers, whom we have to thank for this. The children of the great city send you their blessings Wipe out the blood-thirsty Hitlerites, drive them further westward and do not let them leave the soil of Leningrad alive!

"To-morrow we will begin the restoring of our city with fresh vigour. Glory to the heroic warriors—from the Krasnoye-Selo, Ropsha, Pushkin, Mga and Gatchina divisions! Glory to the great Stalin."

The festivities of the Leningraders continued well in the night.

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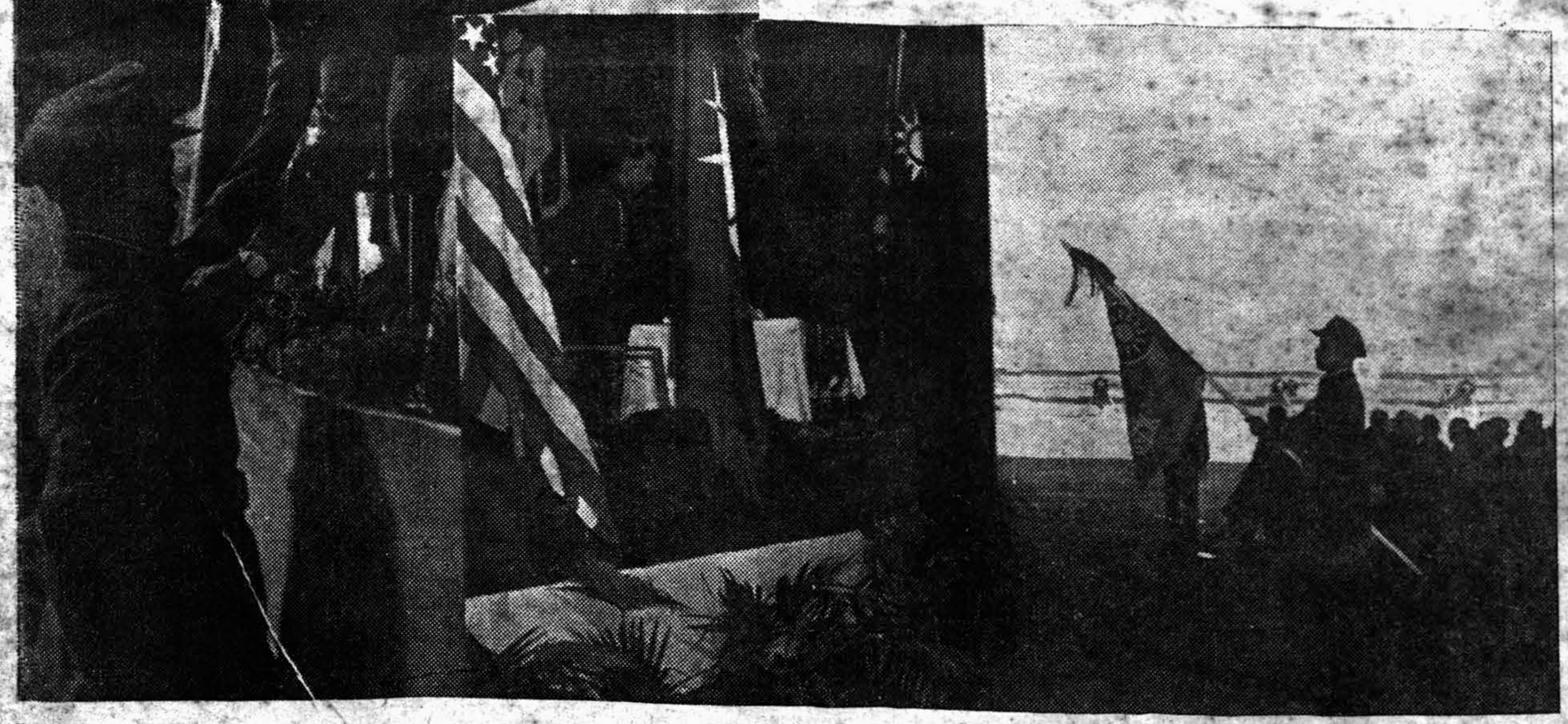
Chinese Aviators Get Their Wings In India

Some hundred Chinese cadets recently graduated from the flying course held by the Indian Detachment of the Chinese Air Force School of Aviation. Photos show (left) Colonel Hwoo pinning a medal to the breast of one of the cadets who distinguished themselves during the course and (below) paying homage to the Flag after presenting it to the graduating class.



FUNGI AT WORK

Drugs, Vitamins, Flavourings And Foods From Moulds And Microbes.

By D. G. JOHNSTON

The prison-killing drug penicillin and now the substance called patulin which it is hoped will prove a cure for the common cold have advertised the great new field of bio-chemistry offered by moulds and fungi. To the ordinary man moulds are nothing but a sign of damp and decay. But to the scientist they are organisms capable of bringing about chemical changes which may be of extreme value, either in producing new and complex chemicals such as penicillin, patulin and other drugs not yet fully tried, or in manufacturing already known substances very much more cheaply and easily from cheap raw materials.

The substance made in the largest quantities by a mould is probably citric acid, the chemical which is so widely used for "lemon flavouring." At one time citric acid for "soft" drinks and medicines was wholly made from lemons. To-day, moulds feeding on sugar under carefully controlled conditions do the work of the sun and soil in the lemon tree and produce citric acid in very large quantities. The United States which not so long ago imported all its citric acid from Italy, now makes upwards of 10,000,000 lbs. a year entirely with the aid of a mould.

The inventor of the process was an official of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Citric acid had previously been made from sugar by the German chemist Wehmer. He found the solution on which he was growing a certain mould turned sour. Analysis showed the flavour was due to citric acid. He appreciated the significance of his discovery but was unable to develop it on a large scale. The success of the U.S. inventor was due to his use of a related but different mould which did the same work and could be used on a large scale. Ten years of work went to the perfection of the commercial process as the conditions under which the mould did its work had to be very carefully controlled. Otherwise poisonous oxalic acid or some other unwanted substance was produced instead of citric acid. To-day, the import of citric acid from natural sources has entirely stopped and, indeed, the mould-made product competes in world markets with citric acid from lemons.

There are many industries in which moulds have been working for men for generations, including that of tanning, cheese-making, flax manufacture and tobacco curing. It is only in comparatively recent years that the exact bio-chemistry of the processes has been fully understood. This has enabled greater control to be obtained. In some instances, the isolation and culture of the particular mould giving the required flavour has enabled "local" cheese to be made anywhere.

Another interesting chemical process carried out with the aid of a mould is the manufacture of gluconic acid. This acid is valuable because, combined with calcium, it makes that element easily assimilable by animals, including human beings. The importance of calcium to health has long been appreciated. The difficulty has been to find forms in which it can be assimilated. Gluconic acid would do the trick—but the cost of manufacture was almost prohibitive. The mould manufactured it at a fraction of the cost of the older processes. Calcium gluconate became cheap enough to administer to cattle where it is valuable in certain diseases. It may one day be cheap enough to add to poultry food, thus ensuring the hen getting its vital ration of calcium. Gluconic acid is also closely related to Vitamin-C and is also a valuable food preservative for certain purposes.

Another mould feeding on glucose will turn it into lactic acid, a valuable substance for many purposes from flavouring pickles to medicines. It is the acid in sour milk. A chemical curiosity is that the lactic acid produced by moulds is slightly different from that manufactured by other methods and is a solid at ordinary temperatures instead of a liquid.

Moulds are used to produce some of the raw materials of certain plastics. They can be used to turn starch into butylene glycol, a substance substituting for glycerine for many purposes. They can produce acetone, another fundamental substance of chemical industry. They can produce alcohols and even fats and may become an important source of food. An expert some time ago reported that he had grown a certain mould on a solution of sugar, fried it and found it very tasty! Moulds may play an important part in the production of new and vital foods in the future.

There are many thousands of different strains of moulds and yeasts and their systematic investigation is only really beginning. Many of the discoveries have been "accidental" in the sense that the mould appeared from the air and settled itself on a culture being used for some other purposes. This was the case with the original discovery of penicillium notatum, the mould from which penicillin is obtained and of the mould making butylene glycol. In other cases the value of substance produced by the mould has only been discovered after it has been made. Patulin was originally produced for cancer experiments.

The field that is open is immense. When we remember that there are animals which can digest wood, turning it into food for their bodies, that there are other moulds and bacteria which break down waste products of almost every kind into inflammable gas, we see two possibilities:—setting moulds to work to convert wood pulp into food and any vegetable waste into gas for lighting and cooking. Experiments are necessarily slow. The right food for each micro-organism has to be found and then the product may vary with the conditions. Citric acid is only produced, for instance, when nitrogen is supplied to the mould for growing. From the production of a new substance by the use of moulds in the laboratory to its production on a commercial scale is also often a big step. In this direction, ingenious machinery is being experimented with, the purpose being to enable the mould to grow not only on the surface of a solution, but all through it. This means agitation and supplying oxygen all through the solution. But the manufacturing process is immensely speeded up when it is possible for a mould to work in a drum of, say 100 gallons of solution, instead of having this amount set out in many large shallow pans, with the mould working only on the surface.

A SALUTATION TO TAGORE

O child of infinity,
Your heart, as pure as prayer,
Awakened life to Beauty's dreams
The sunny hush of soul;
The rain-bow thought, the twilight-delight;
The green pace of growth;
The child's moon-masked craving for Light,
Of dark dreary rainy night;
The budding message of his sweet birth;
Tender motherhood that hardens in toys;
The spirit of creation rising through sighs,
And flowering in stone and dust.

(2)

Your mystic heights illumed,
With Love's smile, his eternal flame,
Upheld his forlorn cause.
Yes, the fountain of my heart dancing,
Over crippling crags and flowing,
Across encompassing sands,
Finds its song in you,
Teacher of Gita!
Apostle of freedom!
Great mystic!
Oracle of Vedas!
Richest mind!
Eagle-heart!

SHER MOHAMMED KHAN.

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